



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Source Says Hata Likely To Defer Talks With Clinton

OW1805030494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0252
GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata will probably defer a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton until he attends a summit of leaders of major industrialized nations in Naples in early July, a government source said Wednesday. "Prime Minister Hata is unlikely to visit the United States prior to the summit meeting," the source said.

Tokyo and Washington are currently trying to arrange a meeting between the two leaders during the Group of Seven summit slated for July 8-10 in Naples, or at another location in Europe, the source said.

Japan, in bracing itself for the summit, has to work out specific proposals to alleviate the global unemployment problem, expand government investment, bolster the anemic economy, reform its taxation system and proceed with deregulation, he said. "Japan will make steadfast efforts to sketch out economic measures to bolster private consumption," he said.

Tokyo Seeks To Define 'Overall Goal'

OW1705151494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1449
GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Tokyo will seek to find common ground with the United States, especially on the overall goal of the trade "framework" talks, during subcabinet-level negotiations to be held in Washington from Thursday, a senior Japanese Trade Ministry official said Tuesday.

Clarification of Japan's stance on the issue is one of three conditions presented by the U.S. in April for getting the stalled talks moving again. The other two are a pledge on macroeconomic policy measures and "objective criteria."

Washington has requested that Japan promise an increase in American access to Japan's markets on a sectoral basis, said the official at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), who declined to be named.

The original framework accord signed after the July 1993 summit between then Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa and U.S. President Bill Clinton stated that the two countries would strive to enhance Japan's imports from the U.S. on an "overall basis."

Japan will carry an answer to the U.S. request for a statement on the overall goals of the framework talks during the coming Washington meeting, the MITI official said.

Roundtable Views U.S. Ties, Framework Talks OW1805083394

[Editorial Report] Tokyo Asahi Newstar TV Network in Japanese at 1100 GMT on 8 May, in its "Sunday Project" program, carries a 30-minute live roundtable discussion on Japan-U.S. ties and framework talks. The discussion is moderated by Soichiro Tahara. Guests include Kyoto University Professor Masaaki Kosaka; Hajime Takano, chief editor of INSIDER magazine; Kenichi Omae, head of Heisei Restoration Group (Heisei Ishin No Kai); Bill Totten, president of Assist Corporation; and Yoshihiro Tsurumi, New York City University professor.

The first 11 minutes of the discussion are devoted to former Justice Minister Nagano's remarks on the Nanjing massacre in China and Nagano's resignation.

At 1111 GMT, Tahara begins to review the series of events that took place during the Hosokawa administration over the Japan-U.S. framework talks. Noting the recent report of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Tahara asks Omae if Japan-U.S. economic ties have reached the worst situation possible. Omae says that economic relations between the two countries are good, that most U.S. companies in Japan are doing well, and that the USTR, contrary to the true state of affairs, is creating a commotion. He continues to say that the USTR is a "tradesman" representing a very small number of U.S. companies having difficulties in Japan. He adds: "The policy of truly first-class companies is not to use the USTR." Tsurumi also says: "Japan-U.S. relations are not bad at all as far as the economy is concerned. It is true, however, that for political reasons, many people in Japan and the United States are stirring up the situation." Tsurumi then says that the Clinton administration is bashing Japan to avoid criticism by U.S. citizens directed at the U.S. Government and that "the \$60 billion trade deficit with Japan is a lie." Asked what he thinks of Omae's comments on the USTR, Totten says: "The USTR is accepting bribes in addition to using U.S. citizens' tax money. The money Motorola and other companies pay to the USTR is bribe money in terms of Japanese law. Americans calling it lobbying." Omae and Tsurumi urge Japanese politicians to realize the true intentions of the United States and not to respond to their unfair demands.

On resumption of Japan-U.S. economic framework talks, Tsurumi says: "There is no reason for Japan to resume the framework talks." He reiterates that Japan will gain nothing from resumption of the framework talks and states: "It is the Clinton administration which will be in trouble if the framework talks do not start again."

Citing the examples of U.S. discussions with China over human rights and Singapore's refusal of President Clinton's demand for Singapore not to cane an American youth, Omae says that the Japanese Government should

resolutely refuse the USTR's recent three-point demand for resumption of the framework talks.

Uzbekistan President Calls for Economic Help

*OW1805062194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0536
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov said Wednesday [18 May] that his central Asian nation and Japan can both profit from increased economic cooperation.

Karimov, who is on a four-day visit to Japan, said at a news conference that Japan can use advanced technology and know-how to help Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic, develop its vast mineral resources such as gold, copper and oil.

"We are having talks with Japanese leaders of various fields here. I think bilateral economic cooperation will increase at a rapid pace," he said.

As one effort to promote economic cooperation, Karimov said Uzbekistan is ready to open air links with Japan.

In talks with Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday, Karimov said that both leaders discussed the possibility of opening an air route between the two nations.

On domestic issues, Karimov said Uzbekistan, which became independent in August 1991, will hold a parliamentary election in December to elect 150 new legislators.

Rejecting the view that his government has oppressed opposition groups, Karimov said under the constitution all existing parties in Uzbekistan can take part in the election, to which he said the United Nations did not raise any objection.

The president also stressed the importance of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) as having served to prevent the former Soviet republics from falling into civil war.

"I see the future of CIS depends on its power to integrate (its members) economically," Karimov said.

Karimov will leave for home on Thursday after visiting the ancient capital of Kyoto in western Japan.

Karimov Supports UNSC Seat for Tokyo

*OW1705142494 Tokyo KYODO in English 1320
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Uzbekistan President Islam Karimov told Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Tuesday [17 May] that his country favors a permanent seat for Japan on the UN Security Council, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Karimov said Uzbekistan wishes to see Japan "fulfill the responsibilities" of a permanent Security Council member, the officials said.

Hata was quoted as pledging Japanese support for Uzbekistan's efforts to set up a market economy and offered to extend cooperation in economic management.

Karimov explained the preparation of legal statutes aimed at attracting foreign investment to the former Soviet republic in Central Asia, the officials said.

The two leaders discussed Uzbekistan's potential for exploiting energy and metal resources and the prospect for bilateral cooperation in such fields.

Karimov and Hata signed a statement endorsing more political dialogue and confirming that international pacts concluded between Japan and the former Soviet Union remain effective "with the exception of those which cannot meaningfully exist."

The statement also said Uzbekistan "expressed the hope that Japan would become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and fulfill its relevant responsibilities."

Hata Supports Reform Efforts

*OW1705150094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1433
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata voiced support Tuesday [17 May] night for economic and democratic reform efforts in Uzbekistan led by President Islam Karimov, Foreign Ministry officials said.

In a meeting with Karimov, Hata also pledged \$5 million worth of medical equipment and vaccines for children as emergency humanitarian assistance, bringing the total amount of Japanese medical assistance to about \$15 million, the officials said.

In the hour-long meeting, followed by dinner at the prime minister's official residence, Hata told Karimov that Japan gives high marks to the president's "original" reform efforts which place importance on stability in central Asia, they said.

Japan wants to support such efforts as much as possible, Hata was quoted as saying.

Karimov, who is on a four-day visit through Thursday, told Hata he is pursuing efforts to shift to a market-oriented economy and to achieve democracy in an original way, based on five principles, the officials said.

The principles are to place priority on economy rather than politics, state involvement in solving problems to achieve a shift towards market-oriented economy, the reign of law, priority on social policies, and shifting towards market-oriented economy step by step, Karimov said.

Uzbekistan wants to join the world economy as soon as possible, karimov told Hata, while calling for Japanese support in projects to develop Uzbekistan's natural resources, according to the officials.

Karimov invited Hata to visit Uzbekistan, the officials said.

Karimov also told Hata that interest toward Japan is growing in Uzbekistan and that most of the 22 million uzbek population knows Japan's history and culture, with some universities offering Japanese language education.

Hata said Japan wants to cooperate in promoting Japanese education and wants to study sending teachers there or inviting students to Japan.

Also during the meeting, Karimov handed Hata an album which included pictures of graves of Japanese soldiers detained in uzbekistan after World War II, the officials said.

Before their meeting, Hata and Karimov signed a joint statement outlining the framework for future bilateral relations.

The statement says Japan and Uzbekistan agreed that "expansion of political dialogue is a beneficial and effective way to promote bilateral relations and affirmed the importance of exchanging opinions on matters of mutual interest, including international and regional problems."

The two countries also confirmed that treaties and international agreements concluded between Japan and the former Soviet Union have been applied and remain in effect between Japan and Uzbekistan "with the exception of those which cannot meaningfully exist" between the two nations, it said.

The statement also said uzbekistan "expressed the hope that Japan would become a permanent member of the UN Security Council and fulfill its relevant responsibilities."

Japan and Uzbekistan also shared concern over environmental problems in Uzbekistan exemplified by those involving the Aral Sea and agreed on the importance of environmental protection, the statement said.

Hata Demands Election Under Single-Seat System

OW1805044194 Tokyo KYODO in English 0422 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata on Wednesday [18 May] urged parliamentary cooperation in speeding up the process of enacting an electorate redistricting bill so that an upcoming general election could be contested under the single-seat constituency system.

"Although I can invoke my authority to call a general election even under the current multiseat constituency system still in place, it is desirable for the election to be contested under the new system," Hata said.

Hata made the remark in a question-and-answer session in the House of Representatives Budget Committee.

Although the Diet legislated in January a package of electoral reform bills replacing the current multiseat system for the 511-member lower chamber with a mix of single-seat electorates and proportional representation, it requires the passage of the demarcation bill to allow the next election to be lawfully contested under the single-seat system.

At present, a government-appointed panel of experts are speeding up the task of splitting the nation's multiseat constituencies into 300 single-seat electorates.

Hata said, "I am aware that some citizens are demanding an early holding of the election to seek a public verdict on politicians in view of the fact that my new administration has been reduced to a minority government."

However, Hata said the legislation of the redistricting bill must precede the general election, saying, "it is crucial to firmly establish the (single-seat) system."

"The public feels that politics is in a hopeless situation and their feelings have caused low voter turnout ratios in various elections," he said.

Fujii Says Tokyo To Maintain Loose Credit Policy

OW1805015794 Tokyo KYODO in English 0112 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Wednesday [18 May] Japan will maintain its easier credit policy to bolster the weak economy, brushing aside any possible policy changes in response to overnight U.S. rate hikes.

"Monetary policy must reflect that nation's economic conditions," Fujii told reporters and noted he had heard the U.S. rate hikes were "part of measures to prevent inflation."

Citing Japan's yet-weak economy, Fujii said that he "believes the Bank of Japan will continue spreading (the effects) of low interest rates."

The central bank has been guiding the key overnight call rate over past weeks to record lows through ample funding operations.

The U.S. Federal Reserve board raised the official discount rate and its target federal funds rate by 0.5 percentage points Tuesday.

The Fed in a statement said the hikes were "designed to maintain favorable trends in inflation and thereby sustain the economic expansion."

Regarding currency rates, Fujii declined to comment on exchange levels, saying he is "quietly watching."

The dollar remained lower despite the U.S. rate hike, with Tokyo dealers saying that the move was already factored in by the market.

Speculation surfaced last week in exchange markets that the leading industrialized nations have made a secret accord to cooperate on credit policy in line with market interventions to boost the dollar.

Germany's Bundesbank cut the key rate last week with other European central banks following suit, and the Bank of Japan continued sending short-term market rates lower. As expected, the U.S. Fed raised the key rate.

Higher U.S. rates and lower rates in other countries help the dollar rise.

MITI Chief Cautious About Textile Import Safeguards

*OW1805025494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0242
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Eijiro Hata, minister of international trade and industry, Wednesday [18 May] took a cautious stance on possible implementation of measures to safeguard textile imports.

The MITI minister told reporters that rules are necessary to implement internationally accepted measures.

But he said it would be ideal if there is no necessity to implement such measures.

Hata was commenting on a set of rules for the implementation of measures to guard textile import levels, recommended by a government advisory panel on Tuesday.

The panel proposed the step be used under certain conditions as a way to protect the struggling Japanese textile industry against massive textile exports by China and other developing countries.

A discriminatory curb on textile imports under the multifiber agreement (MFA) will be phased out by 2005 under the recently concluded Uruguay Round global trade accord.

Japan's implementation of such a step amid the global shift toward free trade could draw international criticism as a return to protectionism.

Panel Crafts Rules for Safeguards on Textile Imports

*OW1705141994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1335
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—A Japanese Government panel on Tuesday [17 May] proposed a set of rules

for invoking a discriminatory curb on textile imports under the Multifiber Agreement (MFA).

It is "desirable" to take necessary measures to remove the negative effects of rapid textile imports on Japan's textile industry under the internationally accepted accord, said the Textile Industry Council, an advisory body to the trade minister.

The move would give the struggling textile industry time to structurally regroup in an effort to realize profits, the council said.

But possible negative effects from the step, including inconvenience to Japanese textile consumers and slack innovative efforts in the industry, should also be considered, it said.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry will work out a guideline for invoking the MFA measure by fall, based on the council's recommendation, a ministry official said.

The recommendation does not mean Japan will begin stepping up safeguard measures on textile imports, in a departure from a restraint policy on the issue, the official said.

The guideline is designed to enhance "the transparency" of the MFA procedure, which has been "very ambiguous," the official said.

The MFA, which was introduced in 1974 and has been repeatedly extended, is intended to protect Japan and Western industrial countries, major textile importers, from possible damage to their domestic textile industries due to massive textile exports by China and other developing countries.

The safeguard rule proposed by the MITI council calls for Japan to activate the step after "technically" evaluating the seriousness of the impact of foreign products on the domestic industry.

Specifically, the council recommended using the ratio of import penetration, or imports divided by an aggregate of production and net imports, as well as import growth.

As a way to gauge the severity of damage, it proposed comprehensive assessment of such domestic factors collected in the past three years, as employment, output drop, wage levels, product prices, sales, investment, inventory levels and profitability.

A cause and effect relation should be also proved between import growth and actual damage or the risk of damage, the council said.

The council cited prevention of a sudden increase in unemployment as a positive effect of the textile safeguard, as well as supporting the domestic industry's restructuring efforts.

As minus effects, the council pointed out slow correction of a textiles price gap between the domestic market and abroad.

With invocation of protectionist measures like the MFA, Japan may draw global criticism at a time when the step is doomed to be phased out under the recently concluded Uruguay round of multilateral trade accords, the council said.

The Uruguay Round trade framework calls for total abolition of the textile safeguard in 2005.

The council said the safeguard, when invoked, should include a measure to ensure a certain level of imports—no smaller than imports in the previous year during the first year of the safeguard's application and with a minimum 6 percent growth in the second year and after.

The import floor is designed to minimize negative effects on Japanese textile consumers, the council said.

Invocation of the textile safeguard should not last longer than three years, it said.

Moreover, it should be phased out by 2005 under the Uruguay Round accord, the council said.

The MITI official said the ministry will select textile items subject to the safeguard measure in the blueprint, noting that a blanket application is not desirable.

Both the United States and Europe have resorted to the MFA scheme frequently over the past 20 years as an effective way of protecting their domestic industries.

About 80 percent of textile imports in the U.S. are covered by the mfa and about 50 percent in the European union.

China has been the largest textile exporter to Japan, with Japan's purchases from that country accounting for nearly 50 percent of the total imports.

The MITI official said the ministry will send a ranking official to China later this month to explain the recommended rules for invoking the MFA.

The Chinese Government is moving to introduce a voluntary curb on textile exports to Japan in order to prevent Tokyo from invoking the MFA.

The MITI source said last week Beijing recently sent MITI a letter stating it will adopt the voluntary cap.

Stopgap Supplementary Budget Passes Lower House

*OW1805100394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0857
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—The House of Representatives plenary session approved a 10.89 trillion yen stopgap supplementary budget Wednesday [18 May] and sent it to the House of Councillors.

The supplementary budget submitted earlier by the government will extend for 40 days a 50-day provisional budget worth 11.05 trillion yen that is nearing expiration.

The revised stopgap budget totaling 21.94 trillion yen for 90 days was endorsed at an extraordinary cabinet meeting in the morning.

The rare supplement on a stopgap budget—the first since fiscal 1990—followed the continued political turmoil involving the resignation of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and the selection of Premier Tsutomu Hata.

Diet deliberations for the 73.08 trillion yen full budget for fiscal 1994, submitted to the Diet unusually late on March 4, were finally begun Tuesday, but uncertainties over a speedy passage still prevail with the ruling coalition holding a minority of Diet seats.

It normally takes about two months for a full budget to pass through the Diet.

Finance Ministry Urges Early Passage

*OW1705110894 Tokyo KYODO in English 1026
GMT 17 May 94*

[“News Focus” by Kohei Murayama]

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—With the long-delayed Diet deliberations on the fiscal 1994 budget finally getting under way, the Finance Ministry is stepping up its campaign to pressure legislators into an early passage of the bill.

Ministry leaders have started to openly admit their fears that a further delay would put a damper on the economy, which has recently shown improvements and been relieved from a further rise in the yen.

“I can't deny that a long delay will affect the economy,” Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told a press meeting held Tuesday [17 May] just before the Diet started its budget deliberations.

The day before, Vice Finance Minister Jiro Saito made headlines by spelling out his concerns at a usually vague regular news conference.

The full 73 trillion yen budget for the year that started 1 April faced a Diet impasse over former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa's questionable loans from the scandal-tainted Sagawa Kyubin trucking group.

During the stalemate, the government adopted a 50-day provisional budget in March worth 11 trillion yen, effective from 1 April, to bridge the spending gap. That stopgap budget will expire on Friday.

The Diet deadlock continued in April, with the opposition Liberal Democratic Party stubbornly pursuing the loan issue and causing Hosokawa to resign.

To further bridge the delay, the government endorsed last week a 40-day supplement to the provisional budget.

Both Fujii and Saito said that fresh public projects and other outlays related to new policy measures cannot be included in the stopgap budget, and Saito stressed, "that's why we are calling for early Diet passage" of the full budget.

Economists said the budget has become crucial to Japan's economic recovery during the halt in the yen's rise, and warned that economy-stimulating spending included in the February 15.25 trillion yen package will dry up by the end of June.

Jesper Koll, chief economist at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc., said the stimulus package helped Japan's real gross national product (GDP) to grow 0.1 percent in calendar 1994, and without it real GDP would have contracted 1.8 percent.

He added that Japan needs to continue bolstering the economy with fresh spending even after the package-related outlays disappear.

Diet budget deliberations usually last about two months, roughly the time frame necessary to have the budget passed by the end of June.

The LDP and the Social Democratic Party, which split from the ruling coalition when the cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata was formed, have said they will try to ensure the budget is passed by the end of the current Diet session on 29 June.

Many economists say there is no guarantee that goal can be realized, given all the current political turmoil and with Hata's coalition holding only a minority in the diet.

Koll said, "foreign institutional investors have completely lost faith in Japan's budget and they are set to sell off Japanese stocks if a clear direction is not in sight by around 15 June."

This would mean a major setback in Japanese stocks that have been underpinned by foreign buying, he said.

From around that time, market attention will shift to the bank of Japan with a cut in the official discount rate becoming the only way to buoy the economy, Koll said.

Meanwhile, bank of Japan Governor Yasushi Mieno, in his latest news conference, called for Hata to use "leadership" to push through the budget.

Extra Budget Worth 10.89 Trillion Yen

*OW1805004994 Tokyo KYODO in English 0026
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—The government adopted Wednesday [18 May] a 10.89 trillion yen supplement to extend for 40 days a 50-day provisional budget worth 11.05 trillion yen that is nearing expiration.

The revised stopgap budget totaling 21.94 trillion yen for 90 days was endorsed at a morning extraordinary cabinet meeting for immediate submission to the current Diet session.

The government also extended the provisional outlays for the fiscal loan and investment program, adding 6.95 trillion yen to 16.78 trillion yen.

The rare supplement on a stopgap budget—the first since fiscal 1990—followed long political turmoil involving the resignation of Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and the selection of premier Tsutomu Hata.

Diet deliberations for the 73.08 trillion yen full budget, submitted to the Diet unusually late on March 4, started finally Tuesday, but uncertainties over a speedy passage still prevail with the new ruling coalition parties holding a minority of Diet seats.

It normally takes about two months for a full budget to pass through the Diet.

Citing the lingering uncertainties, a Finance Ministry official told reporters the 40-day extension period was timed so that the stopgap budget expires when the current Diet session ends on June 29.

As in the initial provisional budget, the supplement earmarks necessary minimum expenditures to keep administrative bodies functioning and excludes public projects in new policy areas.

Outlays related to public works are increased by 1.07 trillion yen to 3.84 trillion yen, about three-sevenths of spending included in the full budget.

Minimum expenses in labor, operations and other administrative expenses are set at 25 percent of the full budget, up from 14 percent in the initial stopgap budget.

Among other major outlays, the supplement boosts social welfare spending by 1.48 trillion yen to 3.69 trillion yen, and raises tax grants to local governments by 3.64 trillion yen to 7.30 trillion yen.

In revenues, the ministry estimates an additional 2.92 trillion yen to a total 6.75 trillion yen in the 90-day period, including 1.93 trillion yen more in tax income to 3.15 trillion yen and 910 billion yen more in bond issuance to 3.38 trillion yen.

To cover an estimated revenue shortfall of 15.20 trillion yen, the ministry plans to raise funds by issuing short-term treasury securities if necessary.

Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii told reporters after the cabinet meeting, "I can't deny that a long delay will affect the economy."

But he stressed that the government decided on the revised stopgap budget to "minimize" adverse effects and is calling for early passage of the full budget.

Meanwhile, some economists warned that the economy-stimulating outlays earmarked in February's pump-priming package will dry up by the end of June.

The Japanese economy is recently showing improvements on the heels of the fiscal measures, but without fresh outlays, it could suffer another setback, they said.

Panel To Review 430 Trillion Yen Public Works Plan

*OW1705031494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0234
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—The Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday [17 May] it is setting up an advisory panel to review Japan's 430 trillion yen 10-year public works spending plan.

The 22-member review panel will be headed by Mitsuhide Yamaguchi, who just stepped down as head of the Export-Import Bank of Japan and is widely expected to be named to head the Tokyo Stock Exchange. The panel is to meet about five times, starting Thursday, and draw up its report next month.

The review is expected to call for boosting the spending on "social infrastructure" projects, as well as the traditional roads and bridges schemes, in part to meet U.S. demands that Japan boost domestic demand to help curb its huge trade surplus.

EPA chief Yoshio Terasawa acknowledged that the committee seems dominated by ex-bureaucrats, such as Yamaguchi, a former vice finance minister, with only a handful of genuinely private-sector choices.

"Anyway, the lineup has been decided," Terasawa told a regular news conference after a morning cabinet meeting. "They're all excellent individuals and I'm sure they'll do a fine job."

On deregulation measures, which the government has also promised by the end of June in a market-opening package, Terasawa expressed a sense of urgency, saying the plans must be sketched out by June 20 to meet the deadline.

"There's really no time. It's down to the wire," he said.

He said Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata and related ministers strongly expressed their will to forge deregulation measures on time, during a special meeting before the cabinet meeting. But Terasawa acknowledged that no specifics emerged.

Keidanren Urges Study of Government Financial System

*OW1705084294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0810
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—The Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren) proposed Tuesday [17 May] that an advisory council for the prime minister

be established to study drastic reforms of government-backed financial services, including postal savings and postal insurance.

The top Japanese business organization made the proposal in a report on reforming Japan's government-backed financial system.

It said a further expansion of the postal savings and postal insurance services should be avoided since they receive various forms of government protection.

The report also said Japan's future monetary policies should be based more on the nation's money supply and land and other asset values, not just interest rates and price trends as at present.

It offered trial calculations on the effects of the money supply on economic growth and rises in land and stock prices.

The report noted the money supply grew at an annual rate of more than 10 percent in the "bubble economy" years between fiscal 1987 and 1990.

It said if that increase rate was curbed to the average nominal growth rate of 7 percent for gross national product in the period, the year-to-year rise in land prices in Tokyo and five other big Japanese cities in fiscal 1990 would have been limited to 0.6 percent, instead of the actual 11 percent.

SDPJ Keeps Distance From LDP Motion To Oust Okuda

*OW1705063594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0549
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—The main opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) ran aground in its bid to take over a key parliamentary committee Tuesday [17 May] when the second largest opposition Social Democratic Party [of Japan] (SDP) [SDPJ] kept its distance, opposition sources said.

SDPJ Chairman Tomiichi Murayama said, "the party should distance itself from both the ruling coalition and the LDP."

Murayama told a party meeting, "we cannot allow this issue to undermine the unity of our party."

Murayama referred to an objection from the largest SDPJ intraparty group, the democrats, to an LDP-sponsored motion to dismiss the chairman of the House of Representatives steering committee who is a senior member of the coalition's core party Shinseito [Japan Renewal Party].

Following the SDPJ's decision, the lower house will shelve the motion aimed at relieving Keiwa Okuda from duties as chairman of the steering committee, a key body which sets schedules for Diet business.

The LDP, which is poised to table a no-confidence motion against the cabinet of Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata after the passage of the fiscal 1994 budget, submitted the motion against Okuda last week.

As the largest single party in parliament and also as the No. 1 opposition party, the LDP submitted the anti-Okuda motion in a bid to reestablish its leading role in setting the course of parliamentary business.

The democrats, an SDPJ intraparty bloc of 23 members in the lower house, decided Sunday not to support the anti-Okuda motion.

Meanwhile, the SDPJ's Diet Affairs Committee Chairman, Koken Nosaka, asked the LDP on Tuesday to allow the Diet to defer a ballot on the motion despite the earlier SDPJ-LDP accord to take concerted action on the motion, SDPJ officials said.

Nosaka also contacted Shinseito, asking for its consent to replace Okuda shortly after the parliamentary passage of the long-overdue fiscal 1994 budget, which is expected to be passed in late June, they said.

Shinseito rejected the request, saying it will not comply with the plea at least until the current regular Diet session adjourns. The session is to expire June 29, but its term could be extended.

Diet Panel Considers Reducing 2 Upper House Seats

*OW1705145694 Tokyo KYODO in English 1404
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—A House of Councillors panel decided Tuesday [17 May] on a reform plan that would reduce the number of seats in the upper house from the current 252 to 250, parliamentary sources said.

The committee, comprised of representatives from all upper house parliamentary groups, will complete the plan by May 24 and draft a bill by the end of the month, they said.

Under the scheme, 150 upper house members would be elected from prefectural constituencies and 100 through a proportional representation system, sources said. Currently, 152 are chosen from constituencies.

The panel has discussed reform in line with electoral system changes made law in January, in which House of Representatives seats would be reduced from the current 511 to 500.

The number of upper house seats was designed to be a half of those in the lower house, the sources said.

The House of Councillors reform program also aims to level the value of votes that differs from constituency to constituency through readjusting the numbers of seats in eight electoral districts, they said.

After readjustment, the maximum vote value disparity stands at 4.81 to 1, compared with 6.48 to 1 as of 1990, they said.

Two seats would be added each in Gifu, Kanagawa, Miyagi and Saitama prefectures, four seats would be reduced in Hokkaido and two would be reduced each in Fukuoka, Hyogo and Kagoshima prefectures, they said.

The new system also allows voters to vote for individual candidates, and not only for political parties as in proportional representation polling, they said.

Report Urges Abolition of Ministries' Local Bureaus

*OW1705053594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0356
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—A draft report compiled by a working group of the ruling coalition calls for the abolition of regional bureaus of the construction, transport and other government ministries, coalition officials said Tuesday [17 May].

The unit of the coalition's Tax Reform Consultation Group also urged an early enactment of a basic law to promote the decentralization of power.

The decentralization of power and local administrative reforms should be pursued before tax reforms are implemented, according to the report.

The proposal is intended to promote local administrative reforms and the consolidation of local communities, the officials said.

The proposal is expected to be incorporated into a package of recommendations a subcommittee on administrative and fiscal reforms under the consultation group will make within the month, they said.

Government ministries, however, are expected to resist the proposed abolition of regional bureaus, government sources said.

Nikkeiren Leader Urges Delay in Road Toll Rise

*OW1705030294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0213
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—A top business leader on Tuesday [17 May] urged Construction Minister Koji Morimoto to delay the planned rise in toll fares on the nation's highways.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the Federation of Employers' Associations (Nikkeiren), criticized the government over the planned toll hike in a press conference last week.

The rise in highway tolls would have a strong impact on overall prices, he said.

Nagano said he will try to testify at a public hearing to be held later this month over the proposed increase in highway charges.

The hearing, cosponsored by the Construction Ministry and the Transport Ministry, will be held next Tuesday over the plan by Japan Highway Public Corp. for an average 10.4 percent rise in the tolls.

In the meeting with Morimoto, Nagano said he doesn't oppose the construction of highways, the funding of which the highway corporation cites as a reason for hiking the tolls.

It is not fair that only public charges are raised while other prices are falling, Nagano told the construction minister.

Morimoto said, "I take the (Nikkeiren) president's remarks seriously."

Tax Panel Considers Proposing Concrete Figures

OW1705063394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0529
GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—A government advisory tax panel is inclined to present concrete tax rates and other figures in its report scheduled to be issued in June, a senior panel member said Tuesday [17 May].

Most panelists stressed the need to put "great effort" into winning public support through regional hearings by presenting "various quantitative options," Sakue Matsumoto, acting chairman of the Tax Commission, told reporters after a panel meeting.

The advisory panel to the prime minister listed major opinions spelled out in seven previous meetings to map out the direction for discussion on tax reform, including income tax cuts and offsetting tax hikes.

Matsumoto, speaking in place of panel chairman Kan Kato, said he does not know if panelists want to include concrete figures in the June report. But he said members agreed to carry out "quantitative" discussions.

He also said most panelists called for additional proposals such as administrative and fiscal streamlining and welfare revision to win support if the tax reform is to cover heavier burdens on taxpayers.

Matsumoto said panelists are still split on whether to conduct a full tax reform or take more limited measures under the weak economy.

Banking Group Chairman Hopes for Recovery in Summer

OW1705083494 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751
GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Japan's economy needs "little more time" to hit bottom but a "recovery

trend is hoped for in and after summer," a leading banker said Tuesday [17 May].

Some bright signs are seen in personal consumption, and housing spending and public works remain buoyant, Toshio Morikawa, chairman of the Federation of Bankers Associations of Japan, told a regular news meeting.

But he said capital investment is still "motionless" and conditions for income and labor are deteriorating.

Under these circumstances, Morikawa expressed hopes that the 15.25 trillion yen stimulus package in February and summer income tax cuts would combine to "cement a recovery trend."

On possible downward pressures ahead, he reiterated his concerns over the yen's rise, delayed passage of fiscal 1994 budget and stalled Japan-U.S. trade talks.

"I hope currency rates will remain stable," Morikawa said, noting the yen's rise has come to a halt with recent intervention by leading industrial nations to prop up the dollar.

However, the yen's current levels are "tough for manufacturers," he said. The dollar traded above 104.50 yen in Tokyo on Tuesday.

On shaky political situations, Morikawa said he does not see any great impact on the economy from the minority rule by Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata.

But he called for "positive handling" to pass the fiscal 1994 budget as soon as possible, and to conduct economic reform as promised in the March market-opening package, primarily to resume trade talks with the United States.

"I'm concerned about a further long delay" in passing the budget for the year started April 1, even though public works are maintained with the third fiscal 1993 budget, he said.

Referring to the release of fiscal 1993 business results next week, Morikawa, who is also president of Sumitomo Bank, said his bank is likely to post a better-than-expected net operating profit from core banking business since interest rates stayed low through the year.

But a lower-than-expected pretax profit is predicted from active write-offs of nonperforming loans, he said.

On the interest rates trend, Morikawa said short-term rates are likely to remain stable at low levels for the time being, and long-term rates will level off from a recent slight uptrend.

U.S. long-term rates are on the rise, but this is unlikely to affect rates in Japan, where the economy remains weak and prices stable, he said.

Survey Indicates Banks Hiring More Employees*OW1705084394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0815
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Japanese commercial banks hired more employees in the three-year period ended March 31, 1993, despite the collapse of the speculative "bubble economy," according to a private survey published Tuesday [17 May].

Teikoku Databank, which published the survey, said the number of workers employed by banks as of that date totaled 427,197, up 3.7 percent from three years earlier during the bubble economy's peak, which was characterized by surges in stock and land prices.

The employment rise came amid widespread moves among industries to cut jobs as part of restructuring programs.

Teikoku Databank, a credit research agency, attributed the phenomenon to high net operating profits from core banking business following a series of cuts in the official discount rate by the bank of Japan during recent years.

The survey covered 112 leading commercial banks, long-term credit banks, trust banks and regional banks, all listed on stock exchanges.

The poll also showed the number of employees at securities companies decreased 2.2 percent in the period under review.

MITI Formulates Set of Deregulation Bills*OW1705125794 Tokyo KYODO in English 1105
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—The Ministry of International Trade and Industry said Tuesday [17 May] it has formulated a set of bills to ease government regulatory controls.

The nine bills, likely to be approved by the cabinet Friday, are in line with the government's emergency economic stimulus packages announced in September last year and February this year, MITI said.

Among other things, the bills are aimed at the scrapping of obligatory reporting by companies of the formation of export associations, the removal of mandatory antidecay treatment for lumber to allow for more efficient lumber use, and freer creation of chambers of commerce and industry.

The bills will be submitted to the current Diet sitting along with 31 other deregulation bills drawn up by other ministries, MITI said.

In a related move, MITI said Tuesday it will set up next Monday offices to receive public complaints, requests and opinions on MITI's deregulation steps.

The offices, to be created in MITI's Tokyo headquarters and its local units in Sapporo, Sendai, Nagoya and six

other major cities, will be open from Monday through Friday each week, MITI said.

Hata: Ozawa's Criticism of Paper 'Not Very Appropriate'*OW1705130294 Tokyo KYODO in English 1202
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata said Tuesday [17 May] it was "not very appropriate" for top coalition strategist Ichiro Ozawa to call the mass-circulation daily ASAHI SHIMBUN "a red newspaper" which practices "black journalism."

The premier was answering questions about the controversial remarks by Ozawa, secretary general of the coalition's core party Shinseito led by Hata.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroshi Kumagai declined to answer a similar question, saying the government cannot comment on politicians' individual remarks.

Ozawa, speaking on Monday in Chiba, east of Tokyo, blasted the daily for "slandering" him, apparently referring to a 26 April ASAHI SHIMBUN story in which he was quoted as saying that "one is free to sleep with the woman of one's choice. It's none of your business."

The comment was later criticized in the Diet and by some public circles as being indiscreet and demeaning of women.

According to the ASAHI SHIMBUN, Ozawa made the remark when asked about the ruling parties' formation of the parliamentary group "Kaishin (Innovation)" the previous day.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP) seceded from the coalition in late April after Kaishin was formed without the SDP being consulted, reducing the Hata coalition to a minority government.

Occupation-Period Correspondence To Be Published*OW1705132094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1218
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, 17 May KYODO—Declassified Foreign Ministry documents soon to be compiled in book form reveal the contents of correspondence between U.S.-led occupation forces and the Japanese Government in the period just after the end of World War II, publishers said Tuesday [17 May].

The publishers said the documents released from the Foreign Ministry archives, which are already available in microfilm, include messages between the office of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (SCAP) and the Central Liaison Office (CLO).

The documents will fill some 24 volumes, to be released starting in October.

They concern such matters as a schedule for the repatriation of Koreans from Japan between 1945 and 1946.

One CLO document dated October 1945 puts the number of Koreans intending to return to Korea at war's end at 1,043,700 out of a total of 1,668,000, including 670,000 Korean residents, 336,000 laborers brought to Japan in groups, and 37,700 demobilized soldiers.

Another CLO document from October 1945 lists the locations and employers of 31,229 Chinese workers in 25 prefectures across the Japanese archipelago who were brought to Japan to alleviate the wartime labor shortage.

The document goes on to detail Chinese worker "agitations" since the war's end which "have become so violent as to constitute a great menace to peace and order."

"Not only do they disregard the terms of contract which they accepted before as reasonable and satisfactory, but also demand 'special' treatments as nationals of a victorious power," it said.

Among the offending acts cited were mob violence, plundering of weapons, plundering of money and other articles and "insults" toward women.

"In order to enforce their excessive demands, they resort even to armed demonstrations causing bloodshed," the document said. "Disturbances are increasing day after day, creating unrest and confusion among the people."

The CLO recommended immediate repatriation of the Chinese, saying Japanese authorities faced difficulties keeping them under control in view of the disarmament of the army and the weakening of the police forces.

Fujii Says Bond Revenue Goal May Be Hard To Achieve

*OW1805045694 Tokyo KYODO in English 0414
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Finance Minister Hirohisa Fujii said Wednesday [18 May] his ministry's goal of holding bond revenues to less than 5 percent of the government's general account budget in fiscal 1999 may be difficult to achieve.

Fujii, answering questions before the Budget Committee of the House of Representatives, said the goal is a "target to strive for."

The ministry published the goal in a medium-term fiscal outlook it submitted to the committee Tuesday.

Increased Private Machinery Orders Signal Recovery

*OW1705081394 Tokyo KYODO in English 0700
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Private-sector machinery orders in March rose a sharp 10.3 percent

from February to provide an indicator that the down-trend in capital spending is coming to an end, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday [17 May].

March machinery orders, excluding volatile orders for ships and from electric power firms, came to 946.8 billion yen, after falling a month-on-month 6.3 percent in February.

On a year-on-year basis, the figure marks a 0.2 percent dip, compared with an 8.9 percent yearly drop reported the previous month.

Private machinery orders are regarded as the key indicator of corporate investment in plant and equipment for the months ahead.

An EPA official said the March figure underscores that the downward cycle in machinery orders is coming to completion.

Thanks to the boost in March orders, orders for the January-March quarter marked a 6.6 percent increase from the previous three-month period, which is far above the government's target of a 9.6 percent decline.

The official, however, quickly added the agency wants to keep a close watch on the data for the time being rather than making its own prediction on machinery orders in the coming months.

His caution apparently reflects poor forecasts for the April-June period simultaneously released, which projected a 13.0 percent plunge in private machinery orders excluding volatile ones.

He said the forecast, based on the agency's hearings conducted in late March on 280 firms, seems partly dampened by a negative reaction to the buoyant results in the January-March quarter.

In the latest reporting month, private orders including those for ships and from power firms, at 1,158.6 billion yen, were flat from February and down 5.1 percent from the year before.

Orders from the public sector totaled 334.3 billion yen, a 25.3 percent surge from the prior month and up 6.4 percent from a year earlier.

Foreigners placed orders totaling 542.4 billion yen, also up a steep 24.2 percent from February and an 8.8 percent rise from the same month last year.

All included, overall machinery orders in March amounted to 2,231.6 billion yen, 9.1 percent larger than February and 0.2 percent more than a year earlier, the agency said.

The EPA also said private machinery orders, free of volatile factors, for fiscal 1993 which ended March 31 totaled 10,568.4 billion yen, down 9.4 percent from the previous year.

Overall orders also dropped 3.3 percent to 24,679.8 billion yen for the third straight year of decline, but the EPA official noted the fall was less sharp than a 9.8 percent drop the previous year.

Private Machinery Orders Rise 10.3 Percent in Mar

*OW1705063294 Tokyo KYODO in English 0506
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 17 KYODO—Private-sector machinery orders in March increased 10.3 percent from the previous month, continuing a zig-zag trend seen over the last months, the Economic Planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday [17 May].

At 946.8 billion yen, March private machinery orders, excluding volatile orders for ships and from electric power firms fell 0.2 percent from the year before, the agency said.

These orders, regarded as a key indicator of trends of corporate capital spending, dropped 7.3 percent in February from the month before, the first fall in four months, after rising 1.9 percent in January.

Tokyo Opposes Prefectural Plan To Release Nuclear Details

*OW1805055894 Tokyo KYODO in English 0433
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Sendai, May 18 KYODO—The Miyagi Prefectural Government has decided to disclose information concerning the delivery of nuclear material shipments to and from a power plant in the prefecture, prefectural government sources said Wednesday [18 May].

The central government in Tokyo, however, is opposing the prefecture's plan.

"This decision...is regrettable," said Kenichi Maruyama, an official of the Nuclear Safety Bureau of the Science and Technology Agency.

He said management of information relating to transport of nuclear fuel falls within an international framework and the Miyagi Government's unilateral decision "deviates from this."

The central government in April 1993 advised power plant localities to avoid divulging such information as a precaution against sensitive materials falling into the wrong hands.

The Miyagi Government has decided to reveal information regarding the shipping of spent nuclear fuel from the Onagawa plant run by Tohoku Electric Power Co., the first such public disclosure in Japan.

While the information will not include the time of transport, name of ship or route taken, it will detail such things as fuel quantity, container type, country of destination and whereabouts of a reprocessing plant.

The decision was made in response to the urging of a local antinuclear group.

Maruyama said the agency intends to summon Miyagi Government officials to discuss the situation.

He said the prefecture will be advised to tighten its control of information, taking into consideration the negative overseas reaction that public disclosure of such information would likely generate, as well as how it would adversely affect other prefectures.

Panel Urges Greater Efforts To Protect Environment

*OW1805030594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0215
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—An Environment Agency panel has drafted a new long-term program calling for greater involvement by individuals, businesses and the government in efforts to protect natural surroundings from industrial pollution.

KYODO NEWS SERVICE obtained a copy of the draft program sketched out by the agency's central environmental council, headed by University of Tokyo Professor Emeritus Jiro Kondo.

The draft says, "the expansion of human social and economic activities...led to the excessive use of natural resources so as to nullify the environment's ability to restore original levels of the resources, while depleting wildlife and reducing its ability to survive."

"It also triggered pollution of the environment by expanding the discharge of unnecessary waste," it said.

"It is also important to defend and preserve the environment by conquering the sort of environmental destruction attributable to modern lifestyles in cities," it said.

The draft urged the public in developed countries to "question the current mode of civilization where prevailing values have encouraged mass production, huge consumption and the subsequent vast discharge of waste into the environment."

The report also urged individual members of Japanese society to "take action" useful in staving off environmental deterioration.

However, it stopped short of setting numerical targets and specific timetables that could be referred to as yardsticks for attaining the cleanup of contaminated areas.

The report also urged the government and local communities to step up efforts to preserve and protect small forests in cities that have survived the rapid urbanization of Japan.

It cautioned that such forests, beaches and paddy fields in mountainous areas are on the brink of losing their

natural capabilities to provide shelter to small animals and to clean up contaminated water.

The draft also urged efforts to prevent wildlife not native to Japan, like the black bass, from damaging Japan's ecosystem. Such wildlife have infiltrated the Japanese environment following their intentional or unwitting importation, the report said.

Group Returns From Visit to Russian-Held Disputed Island

OW1705130994 Tokyo KYODO in English 1231 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Nemuro, Hokkaido, 17 May KYODO—A 48-member Japanese delegation returned to Nemuro on Tuesday [17 May] night after a four-day trip to Etorofu Island, one of four disputed Russian islands claimed by Japan, under a visa-free exchange program, tour organizers said.

The group landed at Nayoka on Etorofu on Sunday morning and stayed at the houses of local residents.

Bad weather forced the cancellation of events scheduled for Monday before departing for Nemuro.

The mission included 24 former residents of the island and nine members involved in a campaign for the return to Japan of Etorofu, Kunashiri, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets.

A similar Japanese group visited Kunashiri earlier this month under the three-year-old visa-free exchange program. It was the first group of the year to travel to the disputed islands.

A Russian group visited Hokkaido in April.

The four islands were seized by Soviet troops at the end of World War II.

Symposium Marks 20 Years of Sister-City Ties With PRC

OW1805045594 Tokyo KYODO in English 0259 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Nara, May 18 KYODO—Representatives from Chinese and Japanese municipalities sharing sister-city ties are taking part in a two-day symposium that opened Wednesday [18 May] to mark more than 20 years of friendly cultural exchanges.

Some 160 participants, including 20 Chinese delegates from cities such as Xian and Shanghai, will discuss ideas on further promoting exchanges and mutual understanding.

The delegates are expected to offer ideas on youth exchanges as well as city planning and management, organizers said.

The conference, hosted by the Japan-China Friendship Association, is the first of its kind to be held on such a large scale, organizers said.

The western Japanese port city of Kobe and Tianjin, southeast of Beijing, were the first to conclude sister-city ties in June 1973 and since then some 150 similar sets of ties have been established.

Nara was selected as the site of the symposium because of the ancient capital's history of dispatching envoys to China from the seventh to ninth centuries.

North Korea

U.S.-ROK 'Aerial War Exercise' Reported

SK1805104394 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] According to military sources, on 15 and 16 May the U.S. imperialists deployed for mobile operations long-range aircraft squadrons in South Korea, waging a provocative aerial war exercise aimed at a northward invasion.

On 15 May, deployed for mobile operations in the bases of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea were squadrons of nuclear-loaded F-16 and F-15 fighters-bombers, EA-20 observation aircraft flown in from U.S. Pacific bases.

On 16 May, in accordance with the operational plans of the U.S. Pacific Air Force Command, these military aircraft ran wild in staging an aerial war exercise—centered on the skies over Chungju, Yongwol, and (?Kunwi)—aimed at launching a surprise strike against the facilities of the strategic in-depth areas of the northern part of the Republic.

This war exercise was aimed at conducting a swift deployment of the overseas-based aircraft into the Korean Peninsula for mobile operations and at increasing the capabilities for an actual warfare between the U.S. Air Force in South Korea and the puppet air force for launching a joint strike for a northward invasion.

In the meanwhile, flown into the U.S. Air Force bases in South Korea on 15 May were a succession of squadrons of C-141 and C-130 transport planes, including super-large C-5 transport aircraft, carrying numerous troops and lethal equipment from U.S. Pacific bases.

All facts show that the U.S. imperialists' maneuvers of preparing a war of aggression are reaching a grave stage.

South Demonstrations Mark Kwangju Incident

SK1805044294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—More than 50,000 members of dissident organisations and students held

rallies and demonstrations demanding a probe into the truth behind the suppression of the Kwangju resistance and the punishment of those responsible for it in different parts of South Korea on May 17, one day before the 14th anniversary of the May 18 Kwangju resistance, according to radio reports from Seoul.

The resistance was triggered off by the hysteric suppressive offensive launched by the U.S. imperialists and the "Yusin" remnants, their stooges, after expanding the scope of the "emergency martial law" to the whole area of South Korea in May 1980.

In Seoul, the National Alliance for Democracy and Reunification held a people's rally in the Chongmyo Park and strongly demanded the clarification of the truth behind the Kwangju incident which is still kept behind a curtain and the punishment of those responsible for the suppression of the resistance. The rally was attended by over 2,000 people.

Many students of universities gathered in Yonsei University and held a rally before staging a demonstration, marching toward the houses of Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, the principal criminals in the Kwangju massacre.

Upwards of 10,000 students of 44 universities and colleges turned out in the struggle in Seoul and other parts of South Korea.

Kwangju was wrapped in a memorial atmosphere. An evening memorial service for those who fell in the Kwangju resistance was held in Kwangju on the eve of the 14th anniversary of the May 18 resistance.

An estimated 10,000 citizens and students of Kwangju gathered in the plaza in front of the South Cholla "provincial government" and recalled the days of the resistance, singing the song of May.

A citizens' rally was held in Pusan for the clarification of the truth behind the repression of the Kwangju resistance with 200 or more students and citizens in attendance.

Call for Probe Into Kwangju Incident Reported

SK1705054294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0524 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—The national committee for inheritance of the spirit of the May 18 Kwangju popular uprising and probe into the truth in South Korea published a statement on May 14, demanding probe into the truth behind the Kwangju massacre in May 1980, according to a radio report from Seoul.

The committee urged the Kim Yong-sam group to amend the "special law" on the Kwangju incident at an early date and make a strict investigation into the principal culprits of the Kwangju massacre.

Papers Mark Anniversary of Kwangju Incident

SK1805105194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 18 May 94

["Spirit of Kwangju Calls for Resistance"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate commentaries to the 14th anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising in May 1980.

It was a just anti-imperialist, anti-fascist resistance to thwart the criminal acts of the U.S. imperialists and their servants the Chon Tu-hwan-No Tae-u fascist group and achieve independence, democracy and reunification, and a mass armed uprising in which the people fought a death-defying struggle in the teeth of repression by huge armed forces.

NODONG SINMUN says the uprising left a precious lesson that if the South Korean people are to smash the armed crackdown of the oppressors and win a final victory, they must courageously wage an all-people anti-U.S. struggle for independence to terminate the colonial rule of the United States.

The news analyst says:

It was the lesson learned by the Kwangju resistance fighters and South Korean people at the cost of blood and the sum total of the struggle that as long as the United States occupies South Korea and the flunkeyist traitors and bellicose elements remain in power, independence, democracy and reunification cannot be expected nor can the scourge of nuclear war be averted.

The South Korean students and people of all walks of life must firmly unite under the banner of anti-imperialism and independence and more vigorously wage the anti-U.S., anti-war and anti-nuclear weapon struggle to overthrow the vicious colonial rule of the United States, establish the sovereignty of the nation, check and frustrate the nuclear war provocation moves of the United States and realise peace and security.

All parties, groupings and people of South Korea and overseas compatriots must courageously wage a nationwide struggle to reunify the country through a confederacy in accordance with the ten-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, the lodestar of national reunification, actively support the patriotic proposal of the North for the convocation of a national conference and turn out as one in the efforts to realise it.

An analyst of MINJU CHOSON warns that if the Kim Yong-sam group fails to lend an ear to the voices of the people and thoroughly and correctly solve the Kwangju problem, it will encounter a greater resistance of the people.

ROK Party Denounces DLP Chairman's Remarks

*SK1805042994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0421
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—A spokesman for the South Korean opposition Democratic Party denounced remarks of Kim Chong-pil claiming that the "May 16 military coup" in 1961 was a "revolution", a Seoul-based radio report said.

In a commentary May 14 he said the utterances of the "chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party" justifying the "May 16 military coup" which gave birth to the "Yusin" fascist dictatorship were "a mockery of history and a deception on the people".

Remarks by ROK Ruling Party Chairman Denounced

*SK1705053194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—The traitor Kim Chong-pil, "chairman of the Democratic Liberal Party" of South Korea, again claimed recently that the "May 16 military coup" was a "revolution".

Commenting on this, a NODONG SINMUN analyst today brands this as a shameless and brazen nonsensical balderdash.

The analyst says:

The "May 16 military coup" was an anti-democratic crime which blocked democratic development in South Korea and brought a more brutal military fascist dictatorship.

The "May 16 military coup" staged under the manipulation of the United States and the military fascist dictatorship produced by it imposed formidable misfortunes and disasters upon the people and left incurable wounds of grievances in their hearts. This was why the traitor Kim Chong-pil invited angry rebuffs from the masses when he defended the "May 16 military coup" last year.

Nevertheless, he again praised the military coup. This is, indeed, an unpardonable challenge to the people's aspiration and demand for democracy. He makes such remarks in an effort to conceal the past crimes he committed against the people, but it is a foolish act. His face is the wolf's, whether he wears a mask, or not. He only reeks of blood.

The traitor Kim Chong-pil contended that the present "regime" has its roots in the soil of "May 16". But he only took the "civilian" veil off the South Korean "president", Kim Yong-sam, while defending the "May 16 military coup" in which he had played the key role. The Kim Yong-sam regime is, in fact, a fascist dictatorial regime disguised with the "civilian" veil.

Kim Yong-sam once said "May 16" was a "coup". But it has become all the clearer that his words were intended to conceal the reactionary nature of the "civilian" regime which has its roots in the military fascist dictatorship.

ROK Repression of Students' Struggle Denounced

*SK1705045894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0440
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—Yi Yong-tok, puppet prime minister of South Korea, cried for a strict "security measure" against the struggle of students, branding it as "illegal violence", according to a radio report from Seoul.

This is a repressive order to strangle the struggle of students by frantically wielding the fascist club.

The struggle of the South Korean people and students for independence, democracy and reunification, an inevitable result caused by the colonial fascist rule, cannot be "illegal violence" in any case but it is a just struggle worthy to be praised.

Yi Yong-tok's cry for ruthless crackdown on this struggle is an unpardonable criminal act becoming only to the fascist murderer.

It is all the more ludicrous that Yi blared "violent demonstration is unjustifiable after the establishment of the civilian 'government'." It is a complete distortion of the reality.

The fascist repressive order of the puppet clique proceeds from a desperate attempt to bolster up at any cost the "civilian government" driven into an extreme crisis by the vigorous struggle of the South Korean people against the Kim Yong-sam group.

Workers Support South Struggle for Wage Hike

*SK1605230594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506
GMT 16 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 16 (KCNA)—Pyongyang workers held a meeting today supporting the South Korean workers' struggle for wage hike.

Yi Chu-hyon, chairman of the Pyongyang municipal committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea, said in his speech:

"The South Korean workers are overdriven for 13-16 hours a day to earn far less than the minimum living cost. It is only too natural that they rose up in a struggle against the authorities' anti-popular predatory and wage curbing policies.

"The South Korean rulers, however, let loose numerous riot police to disperse rallies and demonstrations by force and arrest workers, far from meeting their demand. Nothing has changed in the conditions of the South Korean workers after the Kim Yong-sam puppet clique came to power."

Noting that the South Korean workers are the immediate victims of the puppet clique's "strategy for economic recovery" and war preparations, the speaker voiced full support and solidarity for their struggle against "the civilian" regime's anti-popular labour policy and for wage hike and the improvement of living conditions. "If the South Korean workers and people are to win political freedom and vital rights, they must oust the traitor Kim Yong-sam from power and intensify the struggle to check the new war provocation moves of the U.S. imperialists and their lackeys and get the U.S. Forces and nuclear weapons out of South Korea," he declared.

Workers from different industrial establishments in the city also took floor at the meeting.

They called on the South Korean workers to expand the struggle for their vital rights into an anti-kim Yong-sam struggle and continue it until their demand was met.

Their speeches were frequently interrupted by slogans "Down with Kim Yong-sam the traitor to the nation!" "Full support to the South Korean workers' struggle for wage hike!" etc.

Japan Said 'Accelerating' War Preparations

*SK1705141094 Pyongyang Korean Central
Broadcasting Network in Korean 0828 GMT 17
May 94*

[Unattributed talk: "Japan Has Emerged as a Dangerous Force of War"]

[Text] It is the invariable ambition of Japanese reactionaries to realize reinvasion of Korea and their old dream of the Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.

Today the Japanese reactionaries, holding a wicked intent to become the chief [maengju] of Asia just as the Imperial Army of the past, are accelerating Japan's becoming a big military power, its armament, and overseas expansion. Thus, Japan has become a new hotbed of war. This is proven, first of all, by Japan's reorganizing its self-defense forces into leading aggressive forces of the world.

Japan has already adopted and put into effect the law on cooperation for UN peacekeeping activities. With this, Japan legalized dispatching of its self-defense forces overseas, and is now attempting to create legal conditions for executing a war of aggression while raving about amendment of the law on self-defense forces and about research and formulation of the law on emergency.

What one should not overlook in particular is that the Japanese Defense Agency is turning the core combat power of its ground self-defense forces into the stronghold deployment system [kochom paechi cheje] in order to effectively cope with an emergency on the Korean peninsula by reviewing the main points of the defense plan.

This clearly illustrates that the Japanese reactionaries, openly exposing their attempt to invade Korea again, are accelerating the preparations for reinvasion on a full scale.

The Japanese reactionaries' maneuvers of aggression against the Korean peninsula have been clearly seen in the fact that Japan is dashing to become a big military power and toward nuclear armament.

Japan is drastically increasing its military expenditure. The rate of increase in Japanese military expenditure cannot be compared to any nation in the West, marking the second highest rank in the world in terms of the amount of military expenses.

The Japan self-defense forces have grown into a top leading aggressive force of the world. The plan of adjusting defense power during the period from 1991 to 1995, pushed ahead by the Japanese Government, is designed to reinforce self-defense forces so that they can independently execute local wars by arming them with ultramodern military equipment.

Today the Japanese reactionaries claim that Japan is not a big military power by pointing to the number of active military personnel of the self-defense forces. However, more than 70 percent of the troops of the self-defense forces consists of officers and noncommissioned officers. As the result, Japan's self-defense forces will be increased to several millions on a single morning in an emergency.

The Japanese reactionaries, attaching an importance not only to quantitative expansion of armament and equipment of self-defense forces but also to their qualitative reinforcement, are actively accelerating promotion of fire power, introduction of ultramodern technology and equipment, and increase in mobility and remote control capability.

The Japanese Defense Agency is trying to drastically increase the offensive ability of self-defense forces by arming them with ultramodern equipment, including war command airplanes, Patriot antimissile missiles, new-type tanks, large-size transport ships, and aircraft carriers.

The Japanese militarists, engrossed with the ambition for overseas invasion, have reorganized the defense structure of self-defense forces into offensive, and changed their military strategy from the total defense strategy to preemptive attack strategy. Besides, they expanded their operational zone into wide areas in Northeast Asia and the Pacific with the Korean peninsula as the center.

Furthermore, Japan is running amok with nuclear armament in a bid to realize the ambition for its overseas expansion by all means. As the result, Japan's nuclear armament maneuvers have reached a dangerous boundary.

As has been widely known to the world, Japan has stockpiled scores of tons of plutonium—a basic material

for producing nuclear weapons—and completed construction of the plant with a view to producing a large quantity of plutonium at any time.

In addition, Japan has armed self-defense forces with various artillery guns capable of firing nuclear warheads and with F-15 fighter-bombers that are capable of loading nuclear bombs. Japan has also completed domestic production of cruise missiles that are capable of loading both nuclear and conventional warheads. By staging test firing of a domestic-produced satellite rocket, Japan is creating daily-increasing danger on the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

Today the Japanese reactionaries' overseas aggression maneuvers have become even more grave. As has already been reported, the reactionary Japanese government is scheming to provide a legal basis for overseas aggression under a pretext of coping with an emergency on the Korean peninsula.

In a speech in Washington, Aiichi, former director-general of the Japanese Defense Agency, confessed that the Japanese Government is working measures to cope with an emergency on the Korean peninsula, and openly stated that Japan is going to establish a crisis management system. The Japanese reactionaries' maneuvers for formulating laws for the state of emergency and for establishing a crisis management system are aimed at invading our country and dispatching of unlimited troops overseas, thus arousing worries and concerns of the Asian countries.

All facts show that the Japanese reactionaries' maneuvers of aggression have an extremely haughty nature, and have reached a reckless stage. Today our people, the Asian people and the peaceloving people of the world, are closely watching with high vigilance the military moves of Japan which has emerged as the dangerous force of war.

The Japanese reactionaries should not forget the historic lesson of their disgraceful defeat in the past. They must look straight at the trend of the time and act with discretion.

Emergency Meeting on Rights of Koreans in Japan

*SK1705045794 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0437
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 15 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—An emergency meeting on the human rights of the Koreans in Japan was held here on May 10.

At the meeting, Shigeru Tokoi, chairman of the executive committee of the Forum on Human Rights of Koreans in Japan, made a report on the recent crackdown on the Osaka Prefectural Headquarters of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon) and its branch offices by the Japanese police.

"The search of Chongnyon by the Osaka prefectural police took place against the background of the Japanese Government authorities' moves for effecting 'economic sanctions,' 'emergency legislative arrangements' and 'right to collective self-defence' on the pretext of 'North Korea's nuclear issue,'" said the appeal which was adopted at the meeting.

Political suppression gives rise to new human rights violations and national discrimination, the appeal said, adding that the recent search and the ensuing violence and outcries against the Koreans in Japan are all violations of the human rights of the Koreans in Japan, which create a terror-ridden atmosphere every day.

"We declare with indignation that the national discrimination and human rights violations against the Koreans in Japan are a specially grave and serious problem in Japanese society," said the appeal.

Koreans in Japan Figure Arrives in Pyongyang

*SK1705232694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1508
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—Kim Won-taek, president of the Kuwol Sobang publishing house under the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, and U.S.-resident Korean Son Won-tae and his companion arrived here Tuesday for a visit to the socialist homeland.

Japanese Group Protests Police Search of Chongnyon

*SK1805044494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0436
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Tokyo, May 16 [date as received] (KNS-KCNA)—The Japan committee for support to the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea issued a statement May 13 in protest against police search of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongnyon).

The statement branded the recent search of the Osaka Prefectural headquarters of Chongnyon and its branch offices by 1,000 police in Osaka as an ill-boding high-handed act which shows the legal status of the Koreans in Japan is not guaranteed at all in Japan.

"It is intolerable that unreasonable police repression was committed against the Koreans in Japan who should have enjoyed special protection by Japanese authorities for historical reasons," said the statement, urging the government to take measures to immediately revoke police search of Chongnyon.

"Since the prime minister of Japan declared at the Diet that he repented of Japan's past invasion and colonial rule over Korea, the cabinet is committed to carry the repentance into practice under the eyes of the people," the statement said.

"The Japanese Government must renounce the hostile policy toward the DPRK, stop inciting national chauvinism and remember that its task is not the military policy for imaginary 'emergency in Korea' but normalisation of diplomatic relations between Japan and the DPRK."

The statement called for extending throughout the nation the protest campaign against Japanese authorities' repression of Chongnyon and the Koreans in Japan.

Kim Il-song Replies to Foreign Party Leaders

SK1705044194 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0418 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, sent messages to foreign party leaders in reply to their messages of greetings on the occasion of his birthday.

The reply messages went to Man Mohan Adhikari, president, and Madhav Kumar Nepal, general secretary, of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxism-Leninism); Narayan Man Bijukchhe, chairman of the Nepal Workers and Peasants Party; Samboram Shrestha, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Nepal Communist League; Krishna Prasad Battaray, president of the Nepali Congress Party; Walid Joumblatt, president of the Socialist Progressive Party of Lebanon; Inaam Raad, chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Farouk Dahr-ouj, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Lebanese Communist Party; Abdallah Al Chahal, secretary of the Lebanese Regional Leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party; David Baz, former chairman of the Nationalist Socialist Party of Syria in Lebanon; Budragchagiyn Dashyondon, general secretary of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party; Iqbal Ahmed Khan, secretary general of the Pakistan Muslim League; Vassos Lyssarides, chairman, and Yiannakis Omirou, secretary general, of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Cyprus; Yacob Zayadine, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Jordanian Communist Party; Indrajit Gupta, general secretary of the National Council of the Communist Party of India; H.S. Surjeet, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of India (Marxist); Kassim Salam, general secretary of the Yemen regional leadership of the Arab Socialist Baath Party; Milud Al Mahdabi, general secretary of the permanent Secretariat of the Organization of Socialists in the Mediterranean; Roland Atta-Kesson, national chairman of the National Convention Party of Ghana; Huudu Yahaya, general secretary of the National Democratic Congress of Ghana; El Hadj Bou-bacar Diallo, general secretary of the party for Unity and Progress of Guinea; Mamadou El Bechir Gologo, secretary general of the National Direction Committee of the Sudanese Union-African democratic rally in Mali; Mohamedoun Dicko, secretary general of the Executive Committee of the African Party for the Solidarity and

Justice of Mali; Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, chairman of the Front for Democracy in Burundi; Leonel Mario Da Alva, chairman of the Democratic Convergence Party and Reflection Group of Sao Tome and Principe; Emile Kibala Bey a Nsien, national chairman of the Workers' Party of Zaire; Mohamed Bel Hadj Amor, general secretary of the People's Unity Party of Tunisia; Khaled Bensmain, general secretary of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria; Youssef Amin Wali, general secretary of the Egyptian National Democratic Party; Robert Corbin, general secretary of the People's National Congress of Guyana; Daniel Ortega Saavedra, secretary general of the Sandinist National Liberation Front of Nicaragua; Virgilio Godoy, secretary general of the Independent Liberal Party and vice-president of Nicaragua; Eli Altamirano, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Nicaragua; Gustavo Tablada Celaya, chairman of the Nicaraguan Socialist Party; Miguel Mejia, secretary general of the United Left Movement of Dominica; Sam Marcy, chairman of the Workers World Party of the United States; Gus Hall, national chairman of the Communist Party of the United States of America; Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party of the USA; Trino Melean, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Venezuela; Argelia Raya, chairman, and Jorge Valero, international secretary, of the Venezuelan Movement to Socialism; Adolfo Gonzalez Urdaneta, general secretary, and Emil Guevara, international secretary, of the People's Electoral Movement of Venezuela; Radames Larazabal, president, and Manuel Urbina, general secretary, of the Patriotic Federation of Venezuela; Hardial Bains, national leader of the Communist Party of Canada (Marxist-Leninist); Humberto Vargas Carbonel, secretary general of the Central Committee of the People's Vanguard of Costa Rica; Eduardo Mora Valverde, coordinator of the Central Committee of the People's Party of Costa Rica; Renan Raffo Munoz, general secretary, and Guillermo Herrera Montecinos, international secretary, of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party; Guzman Rivera Castaneda, general secretary of the Socialist Revolutionary Party of Peru; Genaro Ledesma Izquieta, chairman of the People's Front of Workers, peasants and students of Peru; Gustavo Mohme Ryona, national secretary general of the Socialist Political Action Party of Peru; Luis Mateo Munos, general secretary of the Socialist Party of Peru; Alberto Moreno, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Peruvian Communist Party (Red Motherland); Denzil Douglas, leader of the Labour Party of St. Kitts-Nevis; Rigoberto Padilla Ruz, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Honduras; Rene Mauge Mosquera, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ecuador; Peter Symon, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Party of Australia; Preben Moller Hansen, chairman of the Danish Workers' Party, Common Cause; Betty Frydensbjerg Carlsson, chairwoman of the Communist Party of Denmark; Kalus

Riis, chairman of the Central Committee of the Communist Party (M-L) of Denmark; Vassalo Anthony, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Malta; Ludo Martens, chairman of the Central Committee of the Belgian Labour Party; Rolf Hagel, chairman of the Workers' Party-communists of Sweden; Frank Baude, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], Communist Party-KPML (R) of Sweden; Timo Lahdenmaki, chairman, and Heikki Mannikko, general secretary, of the for Peace and Socialism-the Communist Workers' Party of Finland; Blasco Hugo Fernandes, chairman of the National Direction Committee of the Democratic Intervention of Portugal; Manuel Vargas Loureiro, chairman of the Democratic Renovation Party of Portugal; Marian Donnelly, president, and Pat Quearney, general secretary, of the Workers' Party of Ireland; James Stewart, general secretary, and Eoin O'murku, international secretary, of the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Ireland; Eric Trevett, general secretary of the Central Committee of the New Communist Party of Great Britain; Michael Hicks, general secretary of the Britannic Communist Party; Roberto Gabriele, general secretary of the Movement for Peace and Socialism of Italy; and Juan Ramos, general secretary of the Communist Party of the Peoples of Spain.

President Kim Il-song in his reply messages expressed thanks to them for their warm congratulations and best wishes.

He expressed the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the Workers' Party of Korea and those parties would grow stronger and develop and wished them success in their work.

Vice President Meets With Cuban Ambassador

*SK1705232494 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—Vice-President Yi Chong-ok today met and had a talk with the Cuban ambassador to Korea, Jose Ramon Rodriguez Varona, at the Mansudae Assembly Hall, when the latter paid a courtesy call on him.

Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs Song Ho-kyong was on hand.

Lao Defense Minister Remarks on DPRK Progress

*SK1705105394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1004
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—“The Korean people owe their remarkable progress in socialist construction to the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and the immortal chuche idea,” Choummali

Sai-ngason, politburo member of the C.C. [Central Committee], the Lao People's Revolutionary Party and defence minister of Laos, told KCNA, giving his impressions of Korea.

“Korea, the stronghold of socialism, gives great courage to the world people,” he said. “The Korean people are advancing along the road of socialism, not wavering in whatever storm because they are equipped with their leader's idea and are closely united behind him.”

He said the U.S.-led imperialists cannot act arbitrarily because the Korean people have respected Comrade Kim Il-song as their leader, enjoy the wise guidance of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and are firmly united around them.

“The Laotian people and Army,” he declared, “will actively support as ever the Korean people in the efforts to defend the sovereignty of the country and achieve the independent and peaceful Reunification of the country and always fight shoulder to shoulder with the Korean people.”

Struggle of Palestinian People Supported

*SK1705050994 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—A mass meeting was held here Monday on the occasion of a “week of support to struggle of Palestinian people.”

Addressing the meeting, Yi So-yong, vice-chairman of the Korean Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, said that the signing of an accord of the Palestine self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank's Jericho area between Palestine and Israel on May 4 was a fruition of the patient efforts of the Palestinian people to retake the lost territory and restore their national rights.

He wished it would be a basis of building an independent state of Palestine and the first step for a fair and comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue.

Noting that if a durable peace in the Middle East is to be preserved, Israel should withdraw from all the occupied Arab land and the aggression and intervention of the imperialists in this area should be ended, he said: We are convinced that the day is sure to come when the Palestinian people will live a happy life in their motherland after finally settling the Palestinian issue, closely rallied around the PLO.

Palestinian ambassador to Korea Shahir Mohammed spoke next.

He said that the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il set an outstanding example in international support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people and they remain true to internationalism.

The U.S. imperialists are hatching up falsehood and slanders about Korea's development of nuclear weapons, but this is nothing but a demagoguery to cover their disgusting purpose and scheme against Korea, he said, and pointed out:

The Palestinian people and the Arab people fully support the 10-point program of the great unity of the whole nation advanced by the great leader for the reunification of Korea, considering it a most just and comprehensive one.

He supported the DPRK's position to solve the nuclear problem.

Saying that the Palestinian people will always remain faithful friends of the Korean people, he stressed that the revolution of the two countries and friendship between the peoples fostered by President Yasir 'Arafat and the great leader President Kim Il-song will continue to develop in conformity with mutual interests in the future, too.

A letter to the Palestinian president was adopted at the meeting.

SPA Delegation Arrives in Zambia 12 May

SK1705025994 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 1300 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] A delegation of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) led by Chairman Yang Hiyong-sop arrived in Zambia on 12 May.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by the vice speaker and the acting chief secretary of the Zambian National Assembly, functionaries concerned, and our country's charge d'affaires ad interim ambassador to this country.

Papers Mark Anniversary of Ties With Guyana

SK1805105594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate articles to the 20th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Korea and Guyana (May 18, 1974).

NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article says that the establishment of diplomatic relations marked an important occasion in the development of friendly and cooperative relations between the two peoples.

The Guyanese Government and people made achievements in their efforts to promote national unity, rebuild the country and develop the economy, the paper points out, and goes on:

Guyana, externally pursuing non-aligned policy, is making efforts for regional cooperation, keeping good

relations with many countries of the world, the neighbouring countries in particular.

The Guyanese people support the Korean people in their struggle for the independent reunification of the country.

To develop the friendly and cooperative relations between Korea and Guyana conforms to the desire of the two peoples who are struggling to build a new society.

MINJU CHOSON in a signed article says that the Korean people wish the Guyanese people greater success in the work for prosperity of the country.

Algerian, Sri Lankan Parties Support 'Just Cause'

SK1705050394 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—Party leaders of Algeria and Sri Lanka expressed support to the just cause of the Korean people when they met Korean ambassadors to their countries.

Khaled Bensmain, general secretary of the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, expressed support to the just stand of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) to smash the imperialist pressure and achieve the peace and reunification of the country.

He stressed that he would always stand on the side of the Korean people in the struggle for anti-imperialist joint front.

K.P. Silva, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Communist Party, said that the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il are the great leaders of the communist movement at present time.

He pointed out that he would continue to take a practical measure against the anti-DPRK moves of the United States and make all efforts to implement the Pyongyang declaration.

He stressed that the Sri Lanka Communist Party would actively strive to further strengthen and develop the relations with the WPK.

Peace Arrangement on Peninsula Urged in Bangladesh

SK1805045294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—Nine political parties and organizations of Bangladesh including the Workers and Peasants Socialist Party and the Workers' Party issued a joint statement regarding the situation on the Korean peninsula.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists have deliberately massed their Armed Forces and deployed nuclear

weapons on the Korean peninsula, systematically violated provisions of the Korean Armistice Agreement and paralyzed even the armistice observation mechanism, the joint statement says:

We call upon all the peoples and peaceloving governments of all countries to firmly unite to defend world peace and denounce the U.S. imperialists' illegal acts of aggression.

We consider that the DPRK's proposal to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement is justifiable under the current situation and practical measures should be taken immediately to establish a peace arrangement on the Korean peninsula.

We will stand firm on the side of the DPRK Government and people who have struggled for peace and security on the Korean peninsula.

WPK Central Committee Replies to Foreign Parties

SK1805043694 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0424 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] sent messages to foreign parties in reply to their messages of greetings on the birthday of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The reply messages were sent to the Central Committee of the Sri Lanka Communist Party, the Central Committee of the Mozambique Liberation Front Party, the Executive Committee of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Uruguay and the Central Committee of the Norwegian Communist Party.

The C.C. [Central Committee], Workers' Party of Korea also replied to Chairman Jose Gonzalez Espinosa, General Secretary Esteban Diaz Jaquez and International Secretary Jose Oviedo Landestoy of the C.C., Dominican Labour Party.

The messages expressed the conviction that the friendly and cooperative relations between the WPK and these parties will more favourably develop and wished the parties success in their work for the strengthening of the parties and for the democratic development of the countries.

Kim Il-song Sends Gifts to Kim Chaek University

SK1805050594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song sent to Kim Chaek University of Technology latest types of educational experimental and practical facilities including highly efficient electronic computers, drawing instruments, audio-visual aids, video cameras and editing equipment, experimental

apparatuses and electronic devices, more than 3,000 pieces of over 250 kinds in all.

The great leader President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il have built the university into a comprehensive training centre of national technical cadres and wisely led it so as to improve and strengthen its work.

Attending the ceremony for conveying the gifts held on May 17 were Kang Song-san, Politburo member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and premier of the Administration Council, and officials concerned.

The speakers at the ceremony laid stress on combining the acknowledge of the basic principles with the modern engineering principles in the technological fundamental courses, constantly supplementing and completing the contents of the education of special technologies with up-to-date science and technology and deepening scientific studies.

They called for fostering the revolutionary trait of study at the university and producing more associate doctors and doctors in their twenties and thirties who have available quality and ability.

Comrade Kim Chong-il Extends Thanks to Factories

SK1805042894 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0419 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—Comrade Kim Chong-il, supreme commander of the Korean People's Army, extended thanks to the Pyongyang seasoning powder factory, the Yongsong meat processing factory and the Pyongyang flour processing combine which had distinguished themselves in furthering the beautiful tradition of Army-civilian unity.

Officials and workers there often went to People's Army units and congratulated soldiers on their achievements in combat and political training, demonstrating their unshakable will to fight it out in defence of the socialist homeland maintaining close bonds of kinship between the Army and the civilians if the enemies invade it.

At thanks-conveying ceremonies speakers said the happiness of the Korean people today and their bright future are guaranteed as they have Comrade Kim Chong-il at the head of their revolutionary Armed Forces and that they would take care of and love the soldiers of comrade supreme commander like their own flesh and blood and aid the People's Army more assiduously.

Daily Discusses Economic Tasks During Adjustment*SK1805070994 Pyongyang MINJU CHOSON in Korean 22 Apr 94 p 1*

[MINJU CHOSON 22 April editorial: "Let Us Brilliantly Fulfill the Tasks of the Adjustment Period in Socialist Economic Construction"]

[Text] The seventh session of the Ninth DPRK Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] discussed the issue of successfully implementing the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction set forth by the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and adopted a relevant decision. This is a clear manifestation of the firm and invariable determination and will of the Government of the Republic and all the people to brilliantly realize the plans and intent of our party, which has established the upcoming three years as a period of adjustment in the historic turning point of entering a new high stage of socialist construction and set forth a revolutionary economic strategy.

As unanimously stressed again at the current SPA session, the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction set forth by our party is a most correct and revolutionary economic strategy that has proceeded from the prevailing situation, the changed international circumstances, the demands of our developing revolution, and our present economic situation. Reflected in the strategy are our party's lofty will and revolutionary intent to rapidly improve the standard of the people's living and to develop our economy into a chuche-oriented economy that is not shaken by any economic blockade of the imperialists.

Our party's establishment of the adjustment period in socialist economic construction and its decision of the rewarding tasks to be fulfilled in this period is another proud demonstration of the extraordinary leadership ability of our party, which has set forth the wise and expedient tactics by familiarizing itself with the demands of the developing revolution, the rapidly changing situation, and realistic possibilities with brilliant wisdom and scientific insight and which is constantly leading the revolution and construction along a single road of victory by turning adversity into prosperity and misfortune into fortune with matchless courage and iron-like will.

Successfully fulfilling the task of the adjustment period is of important significance in constantly advancing socialist construction, in firmly defending the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style, and in further enhancing its superiority and invincible vitality.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il has indicated: "The revolutionary economic strategy established by our party is to thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy, the light industry-first policy, and the trade-first policy in the adjustment period; to firmly give priority to

coal industry, power industry, and railway transportation, which are the leading sectors of the national economy; and to continuously develop the metal industry."

The task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction set forth by our party is to thoroughly implement the agriculture-first policy, the light industry-first policy, and the trade-first policy; to firmly give priority to the coal industry, power industry, and railway transportation, which are the leading sectors of the national economy; and to continue developing the metal industry. The basic goal of this revolutionary economic strategy is to completely solve the problem of the people's living by concentrating all possible efforts on developing agriculture, light industry, and trade for two to three years to come; to normalize production in all sectors by giving priority to the leading sectors of the national economy; and, thus, to fully enhance the might of the existing economic foundation.

The economic task in the adjustment period is a brilliant milestone and an honorable revolutionary and rewarding struggle task, which promises a new advance in our people's struggle for socialist economic construction.

When the party's revolutionary economic strategy is materialized a new turn will be effected in agriculture, light industry, and foreign trade and, thus, our people's long-cherished desire to live in tile-roofed houses, eat rice and meat soup, and wear silk clothes, will be brilliantly realized in the near future, and the people's material and cultural life will be more affluent and prosperous in conformity with the inherent nature of socialist society. At the same time, along with the development in agriculture, light industry, and foreign trade, the leading sectors of the national economy will be firmly advanced, and metal industry will also vigorously develop. As a result of this, other economic sectors will also be further strengthened, and our self-reliant economy and its might will be extraordinarily strengthened.

In this way, our people will be able not only to live independently without being shaken by any economic blockade by the imperialists, relying on the firmly deepened self-reliant economic foundation and the chuche-oriented economic power, but also to brilliantly solve their food, clothing, and housing problems according to their ideal and desire and to further enhance the superiority and might of the popular mass-centered socialism of our own style.

The economic task for the adjustment period presented by the party firmly guarantees a great new upsurge in our country's socialist economic construction, as well as guarantees our people a worthwhile future.

As the brilliant milestone of the adjustment period was presented, our people came to have a powerful guarantee

for actively coping with the prevailing situation and for firmly occupying a new attack position to reach higher uplands of socialism.

Our party's presentation of the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction is vigorously arousing all the people to launch into a new struggle and register heroic feats. It also serves as a great encouragement that gives hope and faith to the progressive people of the world who is advancing toward socialism while dealing a hard blow to imperialists and reactionaries who disparage and attack socialism.

All the working people should brilliantly implement the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction, with great faith and dignity in struggling with revolutionary economic strategies under the wise leadership of the great leader and the great party.

The WPK report on successfully implementing the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction, which was deliberated at the recent SPA meeting, and relevant decisions adopted at the meeting are generally reflecting the goals for each unit to achieve in implementing the task for the adjustment period, the direction to push ahead with the goals, and specific measures and means to achieve them.

The decisions on general measures to successfully implement the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction, which SPA made after due consideration, are obligations that our functionaries and all working people should regard as a law, a supreme order, and should completely implement. The decisions are also the SPA's task to implement through the sublime struggle to realize its aspiration and desire to achieve the growth, prosperity, and development of the country and to improve the people's welfare.

All functionaries and working people should have fresh resolution and determination to become vanguards of the rank carrying out the worthwhile struggle to implement the economic tasks for the adjustment period and to become creators of miracles and feats.

What is the most important here in struggling for this aim is to thoroughly understand the party's strategic intent behind the presentation of the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction and to have firm ideological resolution and determination to unconditionally implement the task.

Our party's strategic intent behind its presentation of the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction is to remarkably elevate the people's living standard in a few years, to firmly strengthen the country's economy into a chuche-oriented economy that enables us to live on our own strength, and to occupy a new attack position to reach higher uplands of socialism. Only when we deeply understand the party's revolutionary intent, consider it a firm faith of ours, and fill ourselves with extraordinary resolution and stern fighting spirit to implement it without fail, can we

successfully implement the immense and worthwhile task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction that we are faced with under the grave situation today.

With fervent loyalty to the party and the leader, all functionaries and working people should make active efforts to deeply understand the party's idea and intent and make it their flesh and blood, as well as their firm faith. In particular, they should sincerely study and learn the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song's teaching and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's remarks regarding the party's new revolutionary economic strategy, the great leader's New Year's Address, the decisions made at the 21st plenary session of the Sixth WPK Central Committee, recently announced party documents regarding the party's economic strategies, and the decisions made at the recent SPA meeting, so that they can master the basic ideology of the party's economic strategies, the strategic tasks, and the means to implement them.

Along with this, they must brilliantly fulfill without fail the tasks for the adjustment period for their sector and their unit to all the more firmly consolidate the determination and will of magnificently fulfilling the revolutionary intention of the party and the leader. In particular, the state economy leadership organ and responsible functionaries in the related sectors and units must fully entrust their fate to the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and have the firm determination to be able to die while on duty defending the revolutionary post. With this, they must be the standard bearer and hands and feet in upholding the party and the leader to honorably fulfill their responsible role as the commanding staff to fulfill the task for the adjustment period.

Organizing the economic organization work and economic management work are a firm guarantee in successfully carrying out the task for the adjustment period.

Functionaries of each class of the economy leadership organ must carefully organize the economic operation and organization work to implement a new economic strategy and party policy. They must also solve problems in the economic work at the appointed time and in a revolutionary way.

All sectors and all units including the committees, ministries, and administrative and economic committees of the provinces must establish strong rules and order that thoroughly execute the Administration Council's decisions and instructions to realize the party's unitary leadership in the economic work. Also, the creativity of each unit must be highly manifested by the functionaries under the state's unitary leadership to carry out reliably the task for the adjustment period in a revolutionary way.

From the principle of subordinating everything in implementing the party's new economic strategy, the economic guiding functionaries must establish the people's economy plan from a practical point of view, make it so

that it can be carried out by the day, by the month, by the quarter, and by the indicators without fail, and always command the fight skillfully and with aspiration in front of the ranks and set practical examples. Along with this, in accordance with the demand of the party's economic strategy, the work to supply materials to the agricultural, light industry, and foreign trade sectors must be unconditionally carried out first, and the rest must be supplied to the other sectors. This must be carried out under the principle of thoroughly supplying necessary things to the leading sectors of the people's economy and the metal industry sector.

According to the demand of the Taean work system, all the economy leadership organs, plants, and enterprises must manage and operate the economy scientifically and rationally under the collective guidance of the party committee. Also, labor management, facility management, materials management, and financial management must be improved to all the more highly manifest the true superiority of the collective economic management operation method.

The production and conservation struggle must be vigorously carried out in all sectors and all units of the people's economy.

With the attitude of a master, the functionaries and workers must manage the nation's economic life tenaciously and methodically, protect and manage the state's social assets, and effectively use idle materials, waste materials, and byproducts. Also, the struggle to all the more produce and effectively use the existing labor, facilities, and materials must be carried out with energy.

The functionaries must bear in mind that an important reserve to produce more and conserve lies in the technological innovation. Therefore, they must go deeply into the producers to actively bring out their wisdom and creativity, motivate the patriotic enthusiasm and abilities of the scientists and technicians, and strengthen their creative cooperation with the producer masses so that many valuable scientific and technical inventions and technological innovations can be put forth. Such inventions and innovations must be made to be effectively used in production.

All sectors of the people's economy must regard the sectors of agriculture, light industry, and foreign trade as if it were their own work, actively help in these sectors, and vigorously carry out an all-people's support movement for these sectors.

The slogan of self-reliance and fortitude must be all the more highly upheld and thoroughly embodied in fulfilling the task for the adjustment period.

The party's new economic strategy is no other than the strategy of self-reliance and fortitude, and where we carry out the work of self-reliance and fortitude lies the road to successfully fulfill the task for the adjustment period.

All functionaries and working people in all sectors and units of the national economy should implement the economic task for the adjustment period while overcoming difficulties and obstacles, creating necessary things they do not have, and finding out what they lack, by displaying the same spirit and vigor as demonstrated during the period of anti-Japanese revolutionary struggle, the severe days of war, and the great Chollima upswing period, upholding the party's militant slogan, "Let us vigorously accelerate the general onward march of socialism with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude."

The single-hearted unity is the banner of our eternal victory in both the revolutionary struggle and economic construction.

To strengthen the single-hearted unity of our revolutionary ranks in every way is the basic guarantee for the successful implementation of the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction under the grave situation, in which the maneuver of imperialists and reactionaries to crush our Republic becomes all the more unscrupulous as days go by.

Our single-hearted unity means all people's unity around the party and the leader in ideological will and moral sense of duty. It is a firm, vital, and invincible unity that no force can break. Limitless is the might of our people, who are firmly united as a strong social and political living body with the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il as the center, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-sung. We can occupy any fortress and overcome any obstacle when we extremely strengthen the might of this unity.

All the people should arm themselves with the chuche-based revolutionary view of leader, firmly bear in mind the greatness of the party and the leader as an absolute faith, and thoroughly prepare themselves to become genuine, loyal, and filial sons and daughters who death-defyingly protect and defend the party and the leader politically and ideologically in any stormy circumstances and faithfully uphold the party's leadership. We should fully demonstrate our faithfulness to the leader [yongdoja] and more vigorously display the might of our revolutionary ranks' single-hearted unity in the course of the practice struggle to implement the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction, upholding the slogan of loyalty that we will do what the party decides.

The economic task for the adjustment period is heavy and immense, and we may be faced with stumbling blocks and trials in the course of implementing it.

All our people, however, bear deep in their hearts the strong will and faith that we are not afraid of any obstacle or any strong enemy as long as the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il is with us. We also have the great potential coming from the powerful socialist independent economic ground with the chuche-oriented industry as the pivot.

There is no force in the world that can impair the might of our people who are stoutly advancing, filled with faith in certain victory and revolutionary optimism, upholding the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and under the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il's wise leadership.

Let us all keep on advancing and struggling in the spirit of Chollima, plus the speed of the nineties, firmly united around the party and the leader, upholding the banner of the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—and brilliantly implement the task for the adjustment period in socialist economic construction to occupy higher uplands of socialist construction.

Factory Workers Visit Soldiers Building Expressway

SK1805081094 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] While warm feelings of Army-people harmony overflow in the construction site of the Pyongyang-Hyangsan expressway, the soldier builders of the Korean People's Army unit to which Comrade Tong Myong-nam belongs are accelerating the construction project entrusted to them.

The functionaries and employees of Kim Chong-tae Electric Locomotive Complex visited the construction site overflowing with the soldiers' revolutionary zeal. They wholeheartedly congratulated the soldiers who are registering brilliant exploits in the Pyongyang-Hyangsan Expressway construction site. They vigorously encouraged the soldiers, offering the soldiers the gifts and the facilities and materials for construction which they themselves made with inner reserves they found.

The soldier builders were filled with the resolve to complete the project ahead of the target date promised to the supreme commander Comrade Kim Chong-il.

War Veterans Visit Soldiers Building Expressway

SK1805081194 Pyongyang Korean Central Television Network in Korean 1100 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] The war veterans of the Korean People's Army [KPA] unit to which Comrade Kim Che-yon belongs visited the soldier builders of the KPA unit to which Comrade Choe Chong-un belongs who are mobilized for the Pyongyang-Hyangsan Expressway construction.

The war veterans who have already visited the soldier builders several times are vigorously encouraging the soldiers so that they may be brought up strong to become true revolutionary fighters who live and struggle for the party, the leader, the country, and the people.

The war veterans respectfully wrote a letter of loyalty to the respected and beloved comrade supreme commander, and are invariably following the road of loyalty

to help the KPA soldiers spiritually and with labor until the completion of the Pyongyang-Hyangsan expressway.

Steel Complex Begins Automated Roller Production

SK1705053594 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0513 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—The Kim Chaek Iron and Steel Complex, a metallurgical giant of Korea, has begun to produce rollers.

The roller-making equipment is operating normally.

It had undergone load tests and trial operations repeatedly. The workers of the complex built the modern roller production and regeneration processes with their own efforts and technologies in a short span of time.

They finished ahead of schedule the construction project involving the removal of 5,000 cubic metres of earth, concrete tamping of 1,000 cubic metres and assembling of 500 tons of pillars and beams.

The scientists and technicians succeeded in mechanising and automating all the roller production processes through repeated tests for the solution of scientific and technical problems arising in the rotation number of the casting machine, the temperature of infusion and prevention of vibration.

Powdered Bean Milk Produced for Children

SK1805040794 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 17 Apr 94 p 3

[By NODONG SINMUN reporter Kim Kyong-chun]

[Text] A children's food processing unit has newly been established at Sinyang Food Processing Plant under the great love and consideration of the great leader and our party, and is now producing various food for children.

All kinds of children's food produced by the plant—including rice powder, vegetable powder, and tangle powder—are good, and powdered bean milk is better than anything else. The plant has prepared excellent processing lines with its own strength and technology.

The dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il noted: "By vigorously carrying out the technological revolution, the light industry sector should remodel production facilities after a modern style, modernize equipment, make them high-speed, and mechanize and automatize processing lines."

When the question on providing children with bean milk was raised, Sinyang County began to build a facility for producing bean milk at the county's food processing plant without hesitation.

With the desire to timely embody the great leader and the party's great love and consideration for children,

functionaries at the plant tried to find a way to build a modern facility for producing bean milk.

The county's party committee intensified the party-oriented guidance to prepare a modern bean milk production base at the food processing plant in accordance with the party's intention, by mobilizing functionaries and technicians at the local industry sector of the county.

Food scientists engaged in light industrial scientific research came to the plant to render their active technological support in preparing the bean milk production facility. Scientists, functionaries of the county, functionaries and workers of the plant, technicians, and three revolutions team members cooperated together in studying and testing, and completed bean milk processing lines one by one, displaying all their strength and wisdom.

They finally succeeded in producing quality powdered bean milk after repeated research and tests.

This processing line can be easily introduced into any plant. The production process is not complicated, but simple.

The plant has excellently built these processing lines with its own strength with the scientists' active cooperation, and is now able to supply quality powdered bean milk to day nurseries and kindergartens, which give children powdered bean milk mixed with water. Nurseries and kindergartens say they can economize labor and traffic expenses since it is easy to transport and preserve powdered bean milk. Above all, this food is good for children's health since it is digestible, as well as tasty, because it is fermented by milk bacillus.

'Substitute Fuel' Used for Trucks, Tractors

SK1805041094 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 23 Apr 94 p 3

[By reporter Kim Hui-yong]

[Text] Substitute fuel [taeyong yollyo] is being produced on a large scale and is being utilized at the Obong cooperative farm in Pongsan county.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: "An important task in consolidating and developing the results of the technical revolution in the rural areas is to complete land readjustment and solve the problem of fuel necessary in mechanizing the rural economy."

Previously, this farm has been using substitute fuel for trucks. The functionaries and technicians here who keep in mind the party's intention to use more substitute fuel, used substitute fuel for tractors as well and are enhancing the rate of operation. Therefore, fuel for trucks and tractors in this farm are all produced and supplied by substitute fuel, thus enhancing the rate of operation.

Experience from this cooperative farm shows that any kind of work can be done by tractors that use the

substitute fuel, which will enhance the capability of the work. By operating the tractors with substitute fuel at this cooperative farm, large amounts of materials were transported every year. Every work team and subwork team are using tractors that use substitute fuel for harvesting and plowing. This cooperative farm is planning to use substitute fuel in plowing all the fields and harrowing this year, and is vigorously pushing ahead with this project. These days, the fighters for rural mechanization are producing more substitute fuel, are enhancing the rate of operation of the tractors, and are carrying out quality field plowing.

In the past, functionaries and technicians here used substitute fuel to operate water meter and threshing machines. They also used it in irrigating dry fields and in threshing.

By making effective use of this experience, functionaries here have set the goal this year to use substitute fuel in irrigating dry fields, threshing rice and corn, and are prudently organizing the work to fulfill such a goal.

Transplantation of Corn Seedlings Accelerated

SK1705232294 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1506 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pyongyang, May 17 (KCNA)—The transplantation of humus-pot maize seedlings has been stepped up in the rural communities of Korea.

According to data available at the state agricultural commission, 64.2 percent of humus-pot maize seedlings were transplanted throughout the country as of May 13.

Humus-pot maize seedlings were transplanted in 90 percent of the fields in South Hwanghae Province, 87.4 percent in Nampo municipality and 86.6 percent in Kaesong municipality.

Cooperative farms in South Hwanghae Province are transplanting more humus-pot maize seedlings than the daily plan by giving precedence to ridging and other process precedent.

Cooperative farms in Nampo and Kaesong municipalities transplanted humus-pot maize seedlings 1.2 times that in the same period of last year, correctly ensuring the number of maize plants per phyong (one phyong equals 6 feet square) and a total number of maize plants.

Cooperative farms in mountainous areas of Chagang and Yanggang Provinces transplanted humus-pot maize seedlings in many fields in a few days.

Chongju Taesan Farm Builds Methane Gas Plant

SK1805055994 Pyongyang NODONG SINMUN in Korean 23 Apr 94 p 3

[Article by NODONG SINMUN reporter Chong Yong-chol]

[Text] The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: We should properly build bases to produce substitute fuels, such as methane gas or metanthracite, throughout counties and other rural communities and, also, should strive to increase substitute fuel production so that tractors, automobiles, and agricultural machines can properly use it.

Some time ago, we visited a methane gas plant at a village located in Taesan-ri, Chongju County. The methane gas plant is operated by one person.

The plant has a round shape with a ferment room on the second floor and machine room, compressor room, and supply room on the first floor. First, we visited the ferment room.

A functionary of the cooperative farm said: "How nice it is to build, with our own might, such an outstanding tank to produce methane gas!"

After hearing from him, we went to the supply room through the compressor room. Many pipelines have been laid in the supply room to transport gases to automobiles and other agricultural machines.

Comrade Kim Hyo-song, secretary of the ri party, said that "We are widely using methane gas to operate machine facilities." According to his remarks, the cooperative farm has properly built the base to produce methane gas and, above all, formulated plans to use it for use by agricultural machines. Therefore, automobiles, rice transplanting machines, weeders, and small-sized harvest machines are being operated using the gases.

The methane gas production base built by the cooperative farm's own might has greatly improved the rural people's standard of living. Also, the cooperative farm uses methane gas to operate generators.

The gas pipelines between the supply room and the rural dwellings are connected like a spider's web.

We visited a family at No. 10 workshop village, where a housewife was preparing a lunch by using a gas stove. We use methane gas byproduct as a good quality fertilizer.

*** Huichon Industrial Machine Center Discussed**

942C0091A Pyongyang CHOLLIMA in Korean
Dec 93 pp 25-26

[By Associate Hwang Kum-chol, PhD]

[Text] The Dear Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il pointed out the following:

"Today, our reality is filled with numerous renovations and miracles unknown in any other time in history"

Huichon is a place of deep significance, well known in the history of our nation's machine industry and among our people.

Surrounded by the lofty peaks of Chogyu Pass, and the Myohyang and Pinandok mountain ranges—1,000 meters above sea level—the Huichon Basin is the location of Huichon, the leader of our country's machine industry.

Although it is unknown when people started living here, historically, various names for this place have been recorded. It is said that during the Koryo period a wisong (a majestic castle for stopping the invasions of Japanese pirates) was built here, and that afterward it was maintained as a fortress, called Chongsaejin. The village there had been called Wiju, but later the name was changed to Huiju. It was given this name to signify that it was a village whose exploits in driving off the Japanese pirates were glorious. Later, during the Yi Dynasty period, it was called Huiju County, but this was later changed to Huichon County. From this historical data, we can know that Huichon has had a long history since ancient times.

The reason the history of this place is so long, and the reason our ancestors ended up living here, evidently, is that a large part of life here is generally related to the Chongchon River and the favorable conditions of the river basin.

Looking at the natural conditions of Huichon, we can say that generally it forms a large basin.

Therefore, there are many high mountains and passes surrounding it. Representative of these, the Chokyu Pass mountain range stretches out in the north; the Myohyang Mountain range, in the south; following the border with adjacent counties, in the north is Taebawui Mountain, Kwangtae Peak, Yonmok Mountain, Myongmun Ridge [Kogae], and Tuchop Mountain; in the east is Ubi Mountain, Taeam Mountain, Onmu Mountain, Somun Peak, and Mudong Peak; in the south is Piro Peak, which is the main peak of the Myohyang Mountain Range, Hyangno Peak, Popwang Peak, and Saskas Peak; and to the west is Paehwa Mountain and Cholsan Mountain.

In Huichon also flow large and small rivers and streams: the Chongchon River and its tributaries, the Huichon River, Chisin-chon, Myongmun-chon, and Pyongwon-chon.

The watercourses have clear, clean water. Here are many silver fish, carp, cornet fish, yare, and other fishes. Not only this, but the watercourses have a large volume and the conditions whereby a head can be obtained, making them favorable for water-power generation. They raise the scenic beauty of the city and are actively used for industry and irrigation.

Huichon also has famous mineral springs, including Kwandae, Myongdae, Chongnyang, and Chongsang Mineral Springs.

It belongs to the area with the warmest climate conditions in Chagang Province.

Given these natural, geographic conditions, it can be said that our home has conditions favorable for economic development.

However, in the past, Huichon was a backward, slash-and-burn agricultural zone, in which slash-and-burn fields were reclaimed and planted with millet, wheat, and potatoes. At that time, therefore, there were only a few blacksmith's shops and individual, manual breweries.

Thus, before liberation, would anyone have dreamt that our home would become a center of the machine-manufacturing industry, as it is today? Huichon was able to become a machine-manufacturing center, and the pride of the nation, as a result of the wise leadership of the Fatherly Leader and the Dear Leader.

Already foreseeing the victorious future amid the shell-fire of the stern Fatherland Liberation War, the Great Leader revealed the shining path of chuche economic development for the long-term future of the fatherland.

Saying that if we are to build the nation's strong, chuche industry, we must first develop a machine-tool industry, which is central to the machine-manufacturing industry, the Great Leader personally chose the site of a machine-tool factory here in Huichon, with its close power-supply base and its convenient traffic situation, and solved all problems presented by factory construction. Thus, amid the flames of war a machine-tool factory suddenly stood strongly on Huichon land.

The great history of change began in Huichon at that time.

Thus, the glory of the "Mother Factory" shown in Huichon during the periods of postwar reconstruction and basic socialist construction, and the history of our nation's first machine-tool industry was created. In the early 1970s, lifting high the torch of the Three Technical Revolutions, the whole production process was reorganized into a great specialized system, capable of giving birth to the miracle of making 1,000 machine tools per month, or over 10,000 per year, if so desired by the Great Leader and the Dear Leader.

The Dear Leader took a hand, leading our city Huichon, so as to strengthen and develop it, making it our country's machine-industry city.

Visiting the factory on 26 February 1967, the Dear Leader showed workers his unlimited confidence and clearly revealed the road ahead for the factory.

The Dear Leader solved all our problems, great and small, so that Huichon will play an important part in the development of our nation's machine industry.

Huichon was able to change as it has today because of the wise leadership of the Great Leader and the Dear Leader.

This is so, even if we only look at a few of the facts.

Industry developed in Huichon. The machine industry makes up about 70 percent of its total industrial output. Of this, it makes up about 80 percent of central industries.

It is no accident, therefore, that our city is called a modern, machine-industry city.

Its site chosen personally by the Great Leader amid the flames of war and guided by him, Huichon Machine Tool Federated Industries [Huichon Kongjak Kigye Yonhap Kiopso] is widely known in our country as a base of machine-tool production.

Already lifting high the torch of the Three Technical Revolutions in the early 1970s leading the nation, this factory has brought truly spectacular development.

The corps of machines, linked, spread out along the automated line, is just like a machine sea. Regardless of whether one goes to the sites of the remotely controlled, cast-iron production process, the lathe-bead automated line, the apron-manufacturing automated line, the support [patchigae] assembly line, or the sites of casting, manufacturing, or assembly processes, all are modern.

Equipment, such as automated lines, programmed lathes, multipurpose milling machine, drill press, planing machine, and so on, produced in the factory, and the newest machine tools are being sent to machine factories and the factories of various sectors of the people's economy all over the country.

Their quality high, products manufactured here are also meeting with foreign approval. Thus, they make up an important part in our country's machine-tool exports.

The factory is equipped with a research center and experimental laboratories fitted with the newest equipment in keeping with the demands of modern scientific and technological development.

Today, as the factory changes into a large-scale, machine-tool production base, it is developing into a more modern facility of a world-class scale.

No matter where one goes in Huichon, one hears the sonorous sounds of the working equipment of the machine corps, well known as our country's machine-industry city.

Together with industrial production, the appearance of the city has changed drastically.

Enter its streets, stores, or the homes of its workers and they are full of the sound of happy laughter.

The streets Namchon-kori and Chupyong-kori are formed following the banks of the Huichon River, with multi-floored houses lining up along it. Unable to even think of college during the Liberation War, the Huichon Industrial College, the Machine College, and technical schools have appeared in our city and are raising men talented in machine-industry technology.

Is that all? A modern cultural center, library, sports complex, department store, hospital, medical clinic, sanitarium, and recuperation center were created under the benevolent affection of the Dear Leader.

Also, what of the support facilities for the workers of Huichon?

There are vegetable gardens equipped with sprinkler irrigation equipment. There is a prairie-chicken factory producing several million chicken and quail eggs and large quantities of meat a year, a duck factory producing tens of thousands of duck eggs and over a thousand tons of meat, and even a deer ranch.

Although only wild pears were seen in the past, Huichon now has a fruit-production base, producing a great deal of all kinds of fruits, including pears, apples, peaches, and grapes.

It can truly be said that wherever one goes in today's Huichon, it is full of pride and overflowing with joy.

South Korea

Official in Vienna Says Fuel Rods Not Replaced

SK1805073494 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 May 94 p 2

[“REUTER/YONHAP report from Vienna”]

[Text] On 17 May an official at the North Korean Embassy in Vienna said that news reports that North Korea has already begun replacing fuel rods of the 5 megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon are not true.

He said that news reports that used nuclear fuel rods have already been removed for installment of new ones are contrary to the truth. But, he hinted that preparatory work to replace nuclear fuel rods at the Yongbyon nuclear reactor may have begun by now. He added: “We do not know whether nuclear fuel rods are being replaced. But, it, if any, may be preparatory work. It takes two months to replace nuclear fuel rods.”

In the meantime, the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] said that a team to inspect North Korea's nuclear facilities went to Yongbyon via Pyongyang on 18 May.

The inspection team will conduct inspections of the nuclear reprocessing facilities—whose inspections were held in check by the North Korean side last March—and will examine the surveillance camera installed at the nearby nuclear reactor. The IAEA side pointed out that such an examination alone can find out whether fuel rods at the nuclear reactor have been replaced or not.

DPRK To Allow Measurement of Replaced Fuel ‘Later’

SK1805014294 Seoul YONHAP in English 0130 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Washington, May 17 (YONHAP)—North Korea has informed the United States that it will allow the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to check the fuel rods taken out of its 5-megawatt nuclear reactor in Yongbyon later, an official at the North Korean mission to the United Nations said on Tuesday.

He said that although North Korea began to replace the fuel rods of the 5mw reactor in Yongbyon, it will seal the spent fuel and keep it under the IAEA's strict surveillance.

“We will then allow accurate measurement of the spent fuel when we and the United States comprehensively settle the nuclear problem in a package deal,” he said.

The official reiterated the statement by a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman that Pyongyang had to begin replacing the fuel rods for reasons of technical safety. He also noted that the statement emphasized that the nuclear problem can still be solved through dialogue.

Thomas McLarty, chief of staff for U.S. President Bill Clinton, told a TV news program last weekend that Washington needs more information about North Korea's refueling and is waiting for reports from the IAEA team, which began its inspections on Tuesday.

The United States, however, may not have any alternative but to study ways at the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on North Korea if the IAEA inspection fails to come up with satisfactory results, diplomatic sources said.

PRC Official Warns of ‘Extreme Action’ by DPRK

SK1805064194 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 May 94 p 6

[Report by Mun Il-hyon from Beijing]

[Text] China warned on 17 May that “North Korea would likely take extreme action [kuktanjok haengdong] if Western countries intend to isolate North Korea.”

A Japanese Social Party delegate said that in a meeting with a delegation led by Kubo Wataru, secretary general of Japanese Social Party, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said on 17 May that “it is possible for North Korea to take a very extreme method [kuktanjok pangbop],” and that “the Western countries should fully consider such a situation.”

Regarding the replacement of fuel rods at a five-megawatt reactor, which has aroused strong protest from Western countries, including the United States, Vice Foreign Minister Tang said: “North Korea seems to show a hard-line attitude, but, actually, there is room for

the settlement of the nuclear issue." Accordingly, he has strongly hinted that North Korea has not yet carried out the work of replacing fuel rods at its nuclear reactor.

The Japanese Social Party official said that Vice Foreign Minister Tang said China is now actively making efforts for the success of North Korean-U.S. talks.

This is the first time China has openly expressed that it has played a behind the scenes role in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue.

Also, the Japanese Social Party official said Vice Foreign Minister Tang expressed that while President Kim Il-song was in China he said to Chinese leaders on many occasions that North Korea has no intention of developing nuclear weapons, nor does it have the funds or technology necessary, or the need to produce them.

Regarding this, a Chinese high-level source said that "considering the special relationship between China and North Korea, breaking the promise made between the leaders of the two countries would not be easy," and that "the Chinese leadership believes that President Kim Il-song will keep his promise." He has also clearly expressed that China adheres to a negative position on North Korea's nuclear development.

Foreign Minister Discusses DPRK Nuclear Issue

SK1805114094 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 18 May 94 p 3

[Report by correspondent Kang Yong-chin from Bangkok on the news conference by Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu held in the VIP room at Bangkok's Don Muang airport on 17 May]

[Text] [Reporter] Is there any change in the situation of the North Korean nuclear problem?

[Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu] Although there were some hardline remarks, including those of U.S. congressional leaders and Defense Secretary Perry, there is no noticeable change in the situation.

The International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] inspection team, which entered North Korea on 17 May, will pay the greatest attention to examining the degree of progress in the replacing of fuel rods in the five-megawatt atomic reactor, which North Korea announced has already begun. In the event that the inspection team decides that the replacement of fuel rods has progressed, exceeding the dangerous level designated by the IAEA, it will suspend inspections and leave North Korea. It is the right of IAEA to decide this, and both the ROK and the United States will respect its decision. It is not an appropriate act for North Korea to have independently conducted the replacement of fuel rods without IAEA presence. However, if North Korea selected fuel rod samples of its own accord and is keeping them, and if there is a way for measuring them afterwards, a third round of U.S.-North Korea talks may be held.

The additional inspection of the radiochemical experimental power station in Yongbyon demanded by the UN Security Council should also be conducted. It seems difficult that the third round of U.S.-North Korea talks will be held late this month. The talks could be possibly held early next month.

[Reporter] There are reports that the United States will push for hardline measures against North Korea, including sanctions through the UN Security Council, prompted by remarks by U.S. congressional leaders. What is your opinion?

[Han] I understand that they did not mean immediate sanctions. Their intention is that sanctions should be imposed when the IAEA inspection team's report indicates the crossing of the dangerous level. Secretary Perry's remarks that North Korea came to possess used nuclear fuel that would enable it to produce four to five nuclear weapons means that this would be true when the replacement of fuel rods, which is ongoing presently, is totally completed.

[Reporter] Yun Ho-chin, councilor in the North Korean mission in Vienna, said that the replacement of fuel rods already began a month ago, and that North Korea is now taking out fuel rods.

[Han] The beginning of the replacement means that the replacement started from the moment of the suspension of operation. Therefore, whether fuel rods were actually taken out, and how many rods were taken out will be decided only after the IAEA inspection team submits the report.

[Reporter] More than half of all questions raised during the regular briefing by the U.S. State Department in the morning of 16 May were related to the North Korean nuclear problem. Therefore, it seems that this issue is now in an extremely important point. What is your opinion?

[Han] That is quite natural. The United States repeatedly warned in the past that if it decides that North Korea has advanced the replacement of fuel rods to a considerable extent, it will suspend efforts for solution through dialogue. Thus, the situation in which North Korea-U.S. dialogue was suspended, means the beginning of discussions of sanctions through the UN Security Council.

[Reporter] In the event that the UN Security Council begins discussion for sanctions, what is the future prospect of the situation?

[Han] The replacement of fuel rods is quite different from what was an issue in the past. The additional inspection should be conducted because North Korea "failed to do what it should do," and the replacement of fuel rods presents a serious problem because North Korea "is doing what it should not do." In the event that North Korea goes beyond the line, which it should not cross, the atmosphere in the United Nations will change.

As a result, I believe, China will not show a negative attitude toward sanctions against North Korea.

[Reporter] What is the standard to decide the level which North Korea should not go beyond in replacing fuel rods?

[Han] The minimum work in the activities that the IAEA should perform is to carry to accomplishment the three principles of selecting, storing, and measuring the samples of fuel rods. This work is intended to find out past nuclear activities. However, the situation, in which one cannot decide what work North Korea carried out with the nuclear rods it took out, is indeed even more serious.

[Reporter] Is there any possibility of holding a working-level contact between North Korea and the United States in order to convey concerns of the international community to North Korea even before IAEA forwards the report on the result of its inspections?

[Han] If the inspection team leaves North Korea, for instance, tomorrow, a working-level contact will not likely be held. It is not likely that a contact will be held before the inspection team forwards the report on its inspection results.

Papers React to Kim Tae-chung's View on DPRK Issue

SK1705055594

[Editorial Report] Local vernacular dailies on 17 May carry editorials commenting on the remarks of former opposition leader Kim Tae-chung, who is now chairman of the Asia-Pacific Peace Foundation, APPF, that North Korea's possession of two or three atomic bombs would not be much of a problem compared with the 20,000 nuclear warheads the United States has.

The conservative CHOSON ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Mr. Kim Tae-chung's View on the North Korean Nuclear Issue." Referring to his remarks, the editorial says "it is not important how many nuclear bombs North Korea possesses but whether it actually has nuclear weapons." The editorial then says that it is "hard to understand" the APPF's excuse that Kim made the remarks in order to stress the futility of North Korea's possession of a few nuclear weapons because the number of nuclear warheads is not the focus of the nuclear issue.

Noting the ongoing international efforts to deter North Korea's nuclear development, the editorial holds that his remarks are "tantamount to throwing a wet blanket over such efforts," and calls on Kim to "clarify his view on the North Korean nuclear issue before or after he returns home from the United States."

The moderate KYONGHYANG SINMUN carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "We Should Not Allow North Korea To Have a Nuclear Bomb, Not Even One Nuclear Bomb." Noting that his remarks regarding North Korea's nuclear issue has "caused ripples at home

and abroad," the editorial maintains "regardless of the true intent behind his remarks, there is a high possibility that the remarks will confuse the government's North Korean policy."

Stressing the importance of deterring North Korea's nuclear development for the nation's interests, the editorial says, "In view of this, it is hard to read the true intent of Kim's remark that 'the ROK and U.S. Governments have complicated the matter by not yielding a single point to North Korea.'" The editorial concludes that "While we are well aware of where Chairman Kim's true heart and aspiration for the improvement of the North-South relations lie, as one of the most respected personalities in ROK politics, he should refrain from making ambiguous remarks and should work towards a unified national view."

The moderate HANGUK ILBO carries on page 3 an 800-word editorial entitled "Does He Mean That the North's Nuclear Bomb Is Tolerable?" Referring to Kim Tae-chung's "shocking" remarks on the North's nuclear development the editorial says: "It is deplorable that he made such irresponsible remarks at a time when the entire nation is working hard to stop North Korea's nuclear development."

The editorial says Kim's remarks at the Washington's National Press Club proposing the invitation of Kim Il-song to the United States and the appointment of Former President Jimmy Carter as a special envoy to Pyongyang should have been "more discreet"

The editorial concludes that "he should restrain himself from making remarks creating uneasiness and confusion among the people who call for the transparency of North's nuclear issue and want to improve the relations between the North and South."

Source Says 90 DPRK Loggers Seek Resettlement

SK1705121994 Seoul YONHAP in English 1131
GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Moscow, May 17 (YONHAP)—Among the North Korean loggers having escaped from their logging camps in Siberia, those wishing to come to South Korea are known to number about 90.

A source at the South Korean Embassy here said on Tuesday the number was obtained in a careful study of the records of those loggers who have thus far expressed wishes to resettle in South Korea.

The source said, however, there is no way to know how many loggers had escaped Siberian logging camps to date as both Russia and North Korea do not disclose their number.

Meanwhile, another source said North Korea had asked Russia to arrest and hand over about 40 of escaped loggers under the Russia- North Korea legal assistance agreement.

Besides, North Korean secret agents in Russia and other CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) countries have stepped up activities to search and apprehend escaped loggers since Seoul announced a plan to allow them to resettle in South Korea, the source said.

Five DPRK Loggers Arrive Via Third Country

*SK1805035394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0310
GMT 18 May 94*

[Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP)—Five North Koreans who had escaped from North Korean logging camps in Siberia arrived at Kimpo International Airport on Wednesday afternoon via a third country. It is the first time for the Seoul government to allow North Korean loggers to resettle here through lawful means.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Chang Ki-ho said, "the five North Korean loggers who had escaped to member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) arrived in Seoul today after going through a lawful procedure.

"As they wanted to seek refuge in South Korea, the government decided to allow their resettlement here from a humanitarian point of view." The five were identified only by their names—Choe Chong-nam, Kim Tong-un, Kim Sung-chol, Paek Ho-chol and Won Yu-chin.

Chang said he would not disclose no other detailed information about how the loggers could flee and reach Seoul, "in consideration of the position of concerned CIS countries and the personal safety of related people. Their arrival here reflects the government's strong will to put in practice a new diplomacy based on respects for freedom and human rights as a civilian government," he said. "The government will continue to maintain the position."

The loggers will get vocational training at a vocational education organization for a period so that they can adapt themselves to South Korean society, in addition to receiving some amount of money for resettlement here according to the law to protect North Koreans who defect to the South, a government official said.

Article Notes Trips to DPRK by Koreans in Japan

*SK1405034494 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in
Korean 12 May 94 p 14*

[Text] On 14 December 1959, a ship carrying 975 Koreans residing in Japan took off from Japan's Niigata port. It was the SS (Tovlsk) of the former Soviet Union, the first ship to repatriate Koreans residing in Japan to North Korea. North Korea rented the ship from the former Soviet Union. Since then, the SS (Tovlsk) carried Koreans from Japan to North Korea on 157 occasions. On 20 August 1971, the Mangyongbong started its first voyage. The Mangyongbong was a 3,573-tonne passenger boat and served until the Mangyongbong-92 set sail in February 1992.

These ships were named after Mangyongbong, which is located at Mangyongdae, Kim Il-song's birthplace. This was reportedly intended to make Korean residents in Japan remember Kim Il-song and his birthplace.

The Mangyongbong-92 is 123.13 meters long and 20.40 meters wide. Its average speed is 20 knots (37 km) and its maximum is 23 knots. It takes 27 hours to sail between the ports of Wonsan and Niigata, which are 1,000 kilometers apart. Even though it is a 9,339-tonne ship, it cannot sail in strong winds and high waves.

The ship has first class, second class, and third class. It can accommodate up to 220 passengers and a crew of 60 to 90 people.

Every year, the Mangyongbong-92 carries 10,000 family members of Koreans who have already been repatriated to North Korea; goods to be sent to North Korean relatives of Korean residents in Japan; and businesses cargo controlled by the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan. It can carry up to 1,000 tonnes of cargo, including 10 large buses and 30 passenger cars.

It was learned that each Korean resident in Japan must pay Y200,000, which covers the fare, accommodations, and transportation during their stay in North Korea.

Anti-Chongnyon Activist Interviewed on Repatriation

*SK1705000794 Seoul CHUGAN CHOSON in
Korean 12 May 94 pp 20-21*

[Interview with Chang Myong-su, secretary general of the Council for Studying Ways To Cope With the Return of Repatriates from the Republic (North Korea), by U Chong-chang; in Niigata, Japan, date not given—first two paragraphs are CHUGAN CHOSON introduction]

[Text] Mr. Chang Myong-su, 60, secretary general of "the Council for Studying Ways To Cope With the Return of Repatriates From the Republic," has been unable to set foot on his native land (North Kyongsang Province) for 50 years. This is because he once served as a Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] cadre. His parents and siblings have embarked on the repatriation ship, and he himself has also visited North Korea. Mr. Chang had been vice chairman of the Chongnyon headquarters in the Niigata region, famous for the base of repatriation ships. He left Chongnyon in 1989, and is now in the forefront of the anti-Chongnyon movement.

This is because he is conscience-stricken for having sent innocent compatriots to North Korea, a land of hell. His father and eldest brother died there after going through hardships. His second eldest brother has been missing since Mr. Chang began the anti-Chongnyon movement. I met with Mr. Chang at his apartment. He is waging an unaided struggle in Niigata.

[U Chong-chang] I hear that Chongnyon members are wavering.

[Chang Myong-su] In 1991, an event happened in Niigata. Cadres from North Korea called in the families of repatriates to the ship Mangyongbong-ho, threateningly, telling them to shell out donations. Then, giving 20 million yen, a businessman whose elder brother is in North Korea shouted "this money is not yours, but our family's." It had been unimaginable in the past for people of Chongnyon to stand against cadres from North Korea. This is a sign of wavering.

[U] Has your safety not been in danger while you have been engaged in the anti-Chongnyon movement?

[Chang] In October 1989, when I was about to contribute an article on the human rights abuse of repatriates to a Japanese monthly magazine for the first time, a Chongnyon cadre was dissuading me from writing such an article, saying that he would make arrangements for me to meet with Chairman Han Tok-su. I said that I would be willing to meet him if Chongnyon admitted that sending compatriots to North Korea is a national crime. After that, I had never heard from them. Since I founded the council in April 1990, I have been threatened and shadowed. They have even been spreading a rumor that I am a cat's paw of the ROK Government.

[U] In what direction have you decided to move your activities?

[Chang] A considerable number of the repatriates are missing. I understand that the Chongnyon Central Committee is in agony over this issue. Because Chongnyon has played a leading role in sending compatriots to North Korea, that organization should also resolve the issue of the return of the repatriates. I am determined to endlessly urge that Chongnyon resolve this issue.

[U] What is the response in Japan?

[Chang] Japanese broadcasting stations, which had been silent over Chongnyon's sending Korean residents to North Korea, dealt with the issue of repatriates in a series of three installments two years ago. I understand that Chongnyon's influence over Japanese journalism is enormous. But, the Japanese journalists are now paying attention to this issue.

DPRK Reportedly Asked PRC To Withdraw MAC Members

SK1805004594 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 18 May 94 p 1

[Report by Choe Tu-sam from Beijing]

[Text] A Western diplomatic source in Beijing revealed on 17 May that recently North Korea requested that all members of the liaison delegation of the Chinese side of the Military Armistice Commission [MAC] withdraw and return to China. North Korea is at odds with China, which opposed such a request.

This source said that before proposing to the United States to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement, North Korea officially requested in April that all five Chinese members of the liaison delegation, including a colonel-level senior delegate of the Chinese People's Volunteers liaison office of the DPRK-China side of the MAC, be withdrawn because "the historical duty of the Armistice Agreement has ended."

The Chinese side replied: "China would be making a big historical mistake if the Chinese side withdrew from the MAC when it has not been abolished." The Chinese side points out that it is trying to persuade North Korea, but it is being stubborn; therefore, China is in an awkward position.

While the Chinese side is hesitating to withdraw unilaterally from the MAC, North Korea proposed to the United States to replace the Armistice Agreement with a peace agreement late last month and thus withdrew its MAC members to Pyongyang.

Taiwan Said To Send Trade Delegation to DPRK

SK1805083094 Seoul KBS-1 Radio Network in Korean 0700 GMT 18 May 94

[“YONHAP from Hong Kong”]

[Text] A high-level Taiwanese official said: The Taiwanese Government has decided to send an economic and trade delegation to Pyongyang to promote economic and trade exchanges with North Korea. This will happen for the first time since it severed diplomatic relations with South Korea.

A senior secretary of the Chinese Foreign Trade Development Association, a Taiwanese Government-operated trade association, said today that the first Taiwanese Government-operated economic and trade delegation, which is made up of authorities of the association, would leave for Pyongyang next month.

He said that the Taiwanese delegation will tour Pyongyang and the development areas of the Tuman River, and that it will report to the Taiwanese Government after comprehensively studying the North Korean economic situation, as well as the possibility of investment and trade with North Korea.

Government To Withhold Opening S-N Sea Route

SK1405030394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0206 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 14 (YONHAP)—The Korea Maritime and Port Administration (KMPA) has decided against opening a direct regular sea route between South and North Korea for the time being, a KMPA official said Saturday.

The official said, "we do not have to hurry in establishing a regular sea route directly connecting South and North Korea, and we don't have any reasons either."

Unless the North Korean authorities guarantee the safety of South Korean ships and crew, we won't allow the establishment (of the route)."

Seoul and Pyongyang agreed earlier that inter-Korean sea routes are not between two different nations but within one country, he said.

"It is a cabotage route. So we will prohibit foreign shipping companies from operating on the route," he said.

Under the decision, domestic shippers which operate joint ventures with foreign companies plying between South and North Korea should change the ventures to domestic corporations, according to the KMPA officials.

Companies which are pushing for new sea routes to and from North Korea will have to concentrate on non-regular routes transporting common cargo, not on regular routes carrying containers, the officials said.

"A regular inter-Korean route should be established after South and North Korean authorities agree to adopt systematic safety measures. That is the government's policy. If North Korea officially guarantees the safety of South Korean ships and crew, the establishment of a direct and regular sea route to North Korea will become possible anytime," an official said.

But South Korean ships can still depart for North Korea on non-regular direct routes authorized by the National Unification Board and the KMPA, according to the official.

"The government will actively support cargo transport to revitalize inter-Korean economic exchanges," he added.

*** DPRK Diplomacy Predicted To Focus on U.S., Japan**

942C0089A Seoul NAEON TONGSIN in Korean
No 884, 27 Jan 94 pp D1-D8

[Text] If emphasis on the principle of resolving the Korean peninsula's nuclear issue through direct negotiations with the United States is excluded, then foreign-affairs-related portions of Kim Il-song's New Year's address contain no new content this year either.

Kim Il-song repeated the general policy direction of past years: On the premise that it would consistently realize its foreign policy of autonomy, peace, and amity, North Korea, based on the principle of independence, would actively work for solidarity with socialist and nonaligned countries and would also develop good, friendly relations with capitalist countries that respect its sovereignty.

The call for the establishment of a new international political and economic order—based on the destruction of the outmoded international political and economic order and on equality, justice, and impartiality, and for the elucidation of efforts at mutual cooperation and

development, based on the principle of collective self-reliance—was in no way new.

However, that the principle and method of resolving the Korean peninsula's nuclear issue was especially highlighted is worthy of note. It provides us with a useful clue as to where the focus of North Korea's foreign policy will be placed.

First let us examine related content. Kim Il-song stressed that because the so-called North Korea nuclear problem is a product of the U.S.' stubborn pursuit of its anti-socialist, anti-republican schemes and because it was the U.S. that brought up suspicions of their nuclear development and that brought nuclear weapons to the Korean peninsula, threatening them, the Korean peninsula's nuclear issue must be resolved completely through "North Korean-U.S. talks." He made the somewhat hopeful observation and expectation that the nuclear issue could be equitably resolved if the joint declaration adopted by the U.S. and North Korea were implemented.

Of course, this statement by Kim Il-song on the essence of the Korean peninsula's nuclear issue, the method and principles of resolving it, is only a repetition of what North Korea has continually argued since the North Korea nuclear problem became an international issue in the late 1980s. However, the background of this statement was the result last year of two rounds of direct North Korea-U.S. talks and compromise proposals between the two parties for resolving the North Korea nuclear problem, which subsequently became deadlocked. The fact that this statement was made in circumstances where the beginning of a solution to the North Korea nuclear problem was seen once again is judged to contain tremendous significance which absolutely cannot be overlooked.

New Year's Address a Repetition of Past Position

By significance, we mean it suggests that North Korea will continue to use the nuclear issue as a most important lever for landmark improvement of its relationship with the United States, and, furthermore, that the direction of its foreign policy will be focused on improvements related to its policy toward the United States.

To predict North Korea's foreign-policy direction for this year too, having its relationship with the United States as its main direction of attack, North Korea will concentrate on improving, restoring and developing its relations with its surrounding superpowers: Japan, China, and Russia. Furthermore, it appears that it will also continue its Asia-oriented diplomacy. It is predicted that North Korea will strengthen multilateral diplomacy at the same time, such as conducting active economic and commercial diplomacy. It is possible to infer these predictions from internal and external conditions, and from the realities facing North Korea, even though nothing was mentioned in the New Year's address.

North Korea has no choice but to make improving relations with the United States its foremost policy objective because whether it is able to improve relations with the United States is the most decisive variable controlling the success of its overall diplomatic plan.

As is commonly known, this is because improved relations with the United States cannot only restore considerably setbacks in its diplomatic competition with the South resulting from ROK-USSR and ROK-PRC rapprochement, but also stimulate the restoration and development of relations with China and Russia. Moreover, it is because it is a very important issue linked directly with the creation of an environment favorable for the satisfactory execution of commercial and economic diplomacy, such as attracting foreign capital and technology. Thus, North Korea has made plentiful use of its nuclear card, the only one it actually has and its most powerful negotiation lever. There is a high probability, it is judged, that North Korea has established the realization this year of normalized relations with the United States through this, as far as possible, as its highest-priority, foreign-policy objective.

It appears that North Korea's U.S. strategy and tactics related to this will have as their underlying tone a package settlement of normalization with the United States, but will also show the flexibility of providing for a staged approach, depending on conditions and circumstances.

Policy of Giving Priority to Normalization With the United States

As background for this, given the fact that the United States has presented as conditions for a landmark improvement of its relations with North Korea, including normalization, the resolution of the nuclear issue, improvement of human-rights conditions within North Korea, the discontinuance of the overseas transfer of weapons and technology of mass destruction, and the renunciation of terrorism, we can mention the fact that the only choice North Korea has capable of causing the United States to relax other conditions, ultimately agreeing to normalization, is the continued use of its nuclear card.

This is also because, as a result of its stubborn insistence on a "package settlement," which appeared reckless, it was finally accepted, thus demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach.

In the second round of North Korea-U.S. talks, a decision was made—on the assumption that North Korea-IAEA and North Korea-ROK talks and negotiations would be held and progress made—on a staged solution: a third round of high-level talks would be opened and discussions held on the problems of a resolution to the nuclear issue and an improvement of U.S.-North Korea relations. Afterward, with the North Korea nuclear issue at an impasse due to its failure to meet preconditions, North Korea proposed a "package settlement" on 11 November 1993 through Vice Minister of Foreign

Affairs Kang Sok-ju. Ultimately, it was able to solicit a new solution, called a "thorough and broad solution," from the ROK-U.S. summit talks on 23 November.

Afterward, the United States and North Korea, through many rounds of unofficial contact in New York, arrived at a compromise plan, announcing the reopening of North Korea-IAEA negotiations, the entrance into North Korea of the IAEA inspection team, and at the same time the suspension of Team Spirit exercises, and the opening of a third round of North Korea-U.S. talks. This demonstrates that the "package settlement" was in fact essential.

Based on this analysis and understanding, North Korea strictly distinguished between "continuity of safeguards" of the nuclear safeguard agreement and the issue of "full compliance" with the agreement, sticking to its existing position that the latter must be resolved in direct talks with the United States. It is clear that it will pursue a strategy of ultimately achieving normalized relations with the United States by concluding a package settlement of this issue and the so-called U.S. abandonment of its nuclear threat and hostile policy toward the North.

Predicted To Adopt a Staged-Normalization Policy

However, in regard to going as far as normalization with the United States, because there are many obstructing factors, such as the problem of satisfying other preconditions presented by the United States, it appears that North Korea will have no choice but to adopt a staged method of approaching normalization.

After first obtaining a declaration of the suspension of Team Spirit exercises from the United States by allowing the IAEA inspection team to enter the North to ensure the continuity of safeguards of the nuclear safeguards agreement, North Korea will carry on negotiations in a third round of talks to see that the United States accepts, to the greatest extent possible, its demands concerning a package settlement.

At this stage, there is a high probability that North Korea will try a staged strategy. After first reaching an agreement to remove the embargo on exports to the North and on a U.S.-North Korea exchange of mutual liaison missions, it will show flexibility in accepting inspections of the two locations in question, the final resolution of full compliance of the nuclear safeguards agreement, and by responding to a certain extent to the various U.S. preconditions, it will achieve its ultimate goal, normalization.

If its strategy of improving relations with the United States gains considerable success, North Korea will put its interest in normalizing relations with Japan. Since unilaterally breaking off talks due to the "Yi Un-hye problem" in the Eighth Normalization Talks in November 1992, North Korea has consistently maintained a hard-line posture concerning the Japanese side's request that the talks be resumed, saying that it will never sit down to normalization talks as long as Japan

has not abandoned its hostile policy toward the North. It has actually intensified its criticism of Japan. However, it is difficult to draw the hasty conclusion that North Korea will continue to stick to its hard-line posture of rejecting normalization negotiations this year too. This is because the mood for resuming negotiations is taking a turn for the better and because North Korea's own needs demand that it make progress as rapidly as possible in normalization discussions with Japan.

Normalization With Japan: A Means for an Economic Breakthrough

Although North Korea broke off talks using the "Yi Un-hye problem" as a pretext, this was nothing more than a superficial reason. It is no exaggeration to say that the main reason was actually North Korea's dissatisfaction concerning Japan's taking a hard-line stance, such as adding more stringent demands concerning the North Korea nuclear problem as prerequisites for progress in normalization discussions. However, the nuclear issue is starting to be resolved and Japan too is showing a change in its posture, not insisting on linking the nuclear issue with normalization. Thus, one of the greatest obstructions is being cleared up.

Something else worthy of note is the fact that the new Japanese Government shows a greater intention to improve relations with the North than the Liberal Democratic Party government. The Japanese Socialist Party, which has strongly demanded early normalization of relations with North Korea, is the majority faction within the coalition cabinet, and Prime Minister Hosokawa himself, in his first speech in August of last year, was the first prime minister to characterize World War II as "aggressive behavior," and clearly expressed regret for the past, such as apologizing and expressing deep regret concerning past colonial rule. This too is helping in the creation of an environment favorable for the resumption of normalization talks.

Not only this, but Foreign Minister Hata showed a positive stance toward the resumption of normalization talks, such as demanding that the Socialist Party mission, which visited North Korea on 28 December 1993, convey to the North Korean side that the Japanese Government is always willing to talk with North Korea, that the prime minister's expression of apology concerning World War II also had North Korea in mind, and that it is willing to give economic aid to North Korea if the nuclear issue is resolved.

Moreover, with the approach of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, the Japanese Government is displaying considerable willingness to settle issues of the past with surrounding nations, saying Japan can no longer be tied down by past history.

Furthermore, for North Korea too an early conclusion of normalization discussions with Japan is needed to meet the development costs of the free economic trade zones and for success in its policy of actively attracting the capital and technology of advanced countries. In the

context of settling issues of the past, the Japanese Government is showing intentions to pay postwar reparations. Thus, the interests of both parties are drawing close.

Restoration of Relationship With China Due to National Interests of Both Parties

The above change of circumstances was sufficient to stimulate a change in North Korea's attitude toward normalization talks. However, there is also the possibility that North Korea will watch a little longer the progress of its relationship with the United States and political developments within Japan, and that it will for the time being make good use of a waiting strategy to earn time for extracting large-scale concessions from Japan, rather than hastily agreeing to a resumption of normalization talks. North Korea will ultimately agree to resume normalization talks, however. The time for this will be the latter half of this year, at the latest.

It is predicted that North Korea will be more mercenary in its relationship with China. The relationship had become somewhat estranged after ROK-PRC normalization, but has been recovering since the second quarter of last year. Working to restore its relationship with Russia, which is as cold as ever, it will also be active in furthering relations with surrounding Asian countries, concerning which it made considerable efforts last year.

Concerning the need for North Korea to be more mercenary in its relationship with China, there is no room for further debate. Not only is this because it shares with China the highest joint objective of defending the socialist system, but it is also because in the nuclear issue, the greatest issue of the day, and in dealing with the issues of normalization with the United States and Japan, China is really its only strong backer. Moreover, China is North Korea's greatest trading partner and an important supplier of energy and foods, such as petroleum and grain.

Therefore, North Korea urgently needs the cooperation of China to resolve the nuclear issue and the issue of normalization with the United States and Japan, and to overcome its economic crisis. China also judges North Korea's diplomatic isolation and economic crisis not to be in its national interests. Because, facing a Pacific era, it also has designs to use North Korea as a bridgehead for making inroads into the Asian-Pacific region, it views restoring its relations with North Korea as rapidly as possible as being in its national interests.

Concentration on Commercial-Economic Diplomacy Predicted

With the interest of both sides meeting, it is possible their relationship will develop further. The visit to China on January 15th this year of Party Secretary and Supreme People's Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Hwang Chang-yop can be seen as a sign of this.

Interpretations of the purpose of Hwang's visit to China are diverse, but even the one fact that he is the highest-level official to visit China since ROK-PRC normalization is sufficient to read North Korea's intention to improve relations with China. This could develop into summit diplomacy of prime-minister-or-above level, depending on the results of his visit. Should this succeed, it is predicted that the relationship between the two will be restored, to a considerable extent, to the state it was in before ROK-PRC normalization.

Unlike China, North Korea's emotional resentment concerning ROK-USSR normalization continues as before. It is a fact that, because the CIS is already taking an understanding different from the former Soviet Union in all areas, diplomatic, economic, and military, North Korea is not showing any aggressiveness in improving relations with it, and Russia in particular. However, in the event there is progress in its relations with the United States and Japan, it appears that North Korea will gradually begin working to restore its relationship with Russia. It has continually neglected its cold relationship with Russia because, from an economic and military perspective, it is of no help.

For Russia too, there is a great probability it will judge a restoration of its relations with North Korea, from a purely economic and military standpoint, to be beneficial to its national interests. In a Russian Foreign Ministry report on trilateral trade recently obtained by the Korean Trade Promotion Corporation, the Russian Government explores the possibility of trilateral economic cooperation connecting the ROK and North Korea, and estimates that it will be able to play the role of mediator in trilateral cooperation. This supports the above conclusion.

Besides this, North Korea will continue Asia-oriented diplomacy, centered on Southeast Asian nations. Although obscured last year by diplomacy with the United States, the focus of its diplomacy has been the strengthening of its cooperative relationships with Southeast Asian countries. It was successful in securing bridgeheads for advancing into Southeast Asia in Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia. With this as a springboard, North Korea will try to increase the pace of development in its relations with these countries in every area, political, economic, and military.

Meanwhile, together with improving relations with the United States, commercial and economic diplomacy are predicted to form the central axis of North Korean diplomacy. It is a well-known fact that North Korea has long given much weight to commercial and economic diplomacy.

The prediction that it will increase the pace of this is based on the fact that North Korean measures to attract foreign capital have now become full-scale. First of all, the introduction of foreign capital into the free economic trade zones at Najin and Sonbong is forecast to begin this year. Particularly in the 21st Session of the Sixth Party

Congress, a policy putting trade first was selected as a new, revolutionary economic strategy. Since the announcement of the Foreign Investment Law in October 1992, great changes being carried out in North Korea's economic-development line, such as the continued enactment of foreign-investment-related laws, and the urgent need for a stable supply of food and energy are factors making a strengthening of commercial and economic diplomacy unavoidable.

Thus, it is thought that North Korea will concentrate on the multilateralization of its trade, introduction of foreign capital and technology, and sources for food and energy supply.

U.S. Soldier Sent to Korean Prison for Murder

*SK1705023494 Seoul YONHAP in English 0219
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP)—The Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office took over an American soldier convicted of homicide from U.S. military authorities at 11 a.m. Tuesday and sent him to Chonan city prison. The soldier, Pvt. Kenneth Markle III, filed an emergency petition with the U.S. Supreme Court last Friday asking not to be handed over to Korean authorities, but Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist turned it down. Markle, 21, of Keyser, West Virginia, was convicted last year of murdering a Korean woman, Yun Kum-i, 26, in her boarding room in October 1992, but had been confined in a U.S. military prison at Pyongtaek under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between South Korea and the United States.

Article Notes Rise in U.S. Servicemen's Crimes

*SK1705032094 Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean
19 May 94 pp 50-51*

[By Pak Song-chun]

[Text] A medic of the 20th Infantry Regiment of the Second U.S. Division, Private Kenneth Markle served in Tongduchon, Kyonggi Province. If he had not gone AWOL from his unit on 27 October 1992, he would have returned home honorably as a U.S. serviceman who had completed his duty in a dangerous area. On that day, however, he committed a heinous crime which will not easily be erased from the memory of Koreans. He killed a Korean prostitute working for U.S. servicemen in Tongduchon by hitting her on the head four times with a coke bottle.

As the mass media reported the atrocity of this incident, which was referred to as the so-called "murder of Ms. Yun Kum-i," the public was stirred and denounced the crimes of U.S. servicemen. Some pointed their arrow of blame to the authorities of the U.S. Armed Forces, while others held the government responsible. Those with extraordinary interest in this incident have even formed a joint committee to cope with it in an effort to appeal for the revelation of details into the truth of the incident.

Lamenting Ms. Yun's death, the U.S. Armed Forces authorities in the ROK have made clear that "if the accused is convicted in an ROK court, we will help send him to an ROK prison." On 29 April, Private Markle was finally sentenced with the severe punishment of 15 years of imprisonment by an ROK court, and he will soon be transferred to an ROK prison.

Thus, the murder case of Ms. Yun Kum-i has been settled. But, crimes by U.S. servicemen have not come to a complete end. While the stir surrounding the murder case has died down, however, such crimes which had been subdued for some time, are showing signs of raising their head again. This is substantiated by the number of cases involving crime by U.S. servicemen as disclosed by the Report Center for Damages Incurred From U.S. Servicemen's Crimes, the organization affiliated with the Headquarters of the Movement for Rooting Out Crimes by U.S. Servicemen in the ROK (co-chairman: Pastor Chon U-sop).

Writer Choe In-ho Is Also a Victim

The Report Center opened to provide legal aid activities for victims of crimes by U.S. servicemen. With headquarters in Seoul, the center opened on 1 April and keeps watch over U.S. servicemen's crimes through its ten chapters in areas where U.S. servicemen are stationed.

In April alone, over 20 cases of various crimes involving U.S. servicemen were reported at the center. In one case, a man suffered a broken nose while trying to mediate in a quarrel involving bullying by a group of U.S. servicemen, and in another, a man was hit by a hit-and-run car of a U.S. serviceman. The common feature of these cases is that only the victims have suffered.

Such a tendency has become more apparent recently. Mr. Cho Chae-hak, a representative secretary of the Report Center, said: "Before the first trial on Private Markle was referred to an ROK court for sentencing, a bloodthirsty atmosphere prevailed, and U.S. servicemen dared not commit a crime. The U.S. Armed Forces authorities appeared to be trying to keep their servicemen under discipline in a bid not to unnecessarily incur the Korean people's displeasure. The situation has begun to change gradually, however, and it seems that U.S. servicemen have returned to their past attitude of callousness and arrogance."

In fact, as long as the present status continues, we can say that while U.S. servicemen's crimes become slightly subdued under certain circumstances, we cannot say that they have been reduced to the level of "extinction." This is because when a crime involving a U.S. serviceman takes place, most aspects—such as procedure and conditions of involvement by the ROK and US sides, the investigation process, the treatment of the accused, and retroactive compensation—are stipulated to the advantage of the U.S. servicemen. This is all the more convincing in light of the case of writer Choe In-ho who was

practically forced into an early end to his writing career due to a car accident on the Yongdong Express Way on 21 March.

That accident occurred because the U.S. serviceman who was driving the military truck on the expressway was dozing. Mr. Choe In-ho's car could not avoid the charging vehicle as it abruptly crossed the median strip. Mr. Choe suffered severe injuries and was hospitalized for four weeks. Fortunately, Mr. Choe recuperated and was discharged from the hospital some time ago, but he has yet to be compensated for his completely damaged car, not to speak of the medical costs incurred, because when someone is involved in a car accident for which a U.S. serviceman is responsible, that person must wait at least six months for reparations such as medical fees.

While Mr. Choe is unlikely to suffer much unfairness because, as a leading ROK novelist, he has both the social stature and ability to readily find the legal means to settle the case on his own, what would happen to someone who didn't have the same social status or ability? The answer is "there would be no choice but to suffer."

This Means That We Have Given Up Jurisdiction Ourselves

This is confirmed if we take a look at the status of U.S. servicemen's crimes that occurred recently in the Tongduchon area where six U.S. military camps such as Camp Casey and Camp Mobile are located. A typical case was that of Mr. Pak Kyong-nim, a standbar manager in Tongduchon.

Mr. Pak met with an accident last Christmas. After closing his business that night, Mr. Pak and his co-workers went to a U.S. servicemen's club in Posan-dong. He was severely injured by a U.S. serviceman who stabbed the left side of his chin, his right arm, and the his abdomen. He received 40 stitches. At that time, Pak and his group were engaged in a gang fight against the U.S. servicemen. The self-regulating civilian vigilantes in Posan-dong caught two black servicemen who were alleged offenders on the spot and referred them to the U.S. military police detachment. But, that was the end of it. The ROK prosecutor handed over jurisdiction to the U.S. military on grounds that the case was minor, and the U.S. military side released the suspects on grounds of insufficient charges. Far from getting any compensation, at this point, Mr. Pak does not even know the names of the offenders.

According to data submitted to the National Assembly by the Ministry of Justice as part of the former's inspection of the government administration in 1992, only 12 of a total 338 cases of U.S. servicemen breaking the law on various occasions such as in violence, car accidents, or thefts as compiled between January and August 1992 received severe punishment such as going to jail or a dishonorable discharge from the military. In view of this, it is clear-cut what result will be meted out to the Koreans who have suffered from U.S. servicemen's

crimes. Mr. Chang Tae-won, chief of the self-regulating civil vigilantes in Posan-dong, Tongduchon, said: "We refer offenders that we apprehend to the U.S. military police first, but, we have never been notified by the U.S. Armed Forces of the outcome of such cases."

Crimes involving U.S. servicemen are handled according to the provisions in the Status of Forces Agreement [SOFA] between the ROK and the United States, which was revised in 1991. According to this agreement, the ROK side has primary jurisdiction except for in cases of "crimes committed against United States property or security" or "crimes committed during the execution of one's official duties." Therefore, in Mr. Pak's case, the ROK Government even gave up its natural duty to its citizens. According to experts, such contradictions originate from the existing SOFA in which agreed upon provisions such as minutes and items of understanding impair the legal effectiveness of the main agreement.

For example, the agreed minutes, which are an addendum to the main agreement, stipulate that even if there is no request from the United States, the ROK shall not ask for the primary jurisdiction from the U.S. side "for swift handling of the cases." This means that the clause for 'automatic relinquishment of jurisdiction,' which was written out in 1991's revision, has been revived. Furthermore, the agreed minutes stipulate that "in the event that a representative from the United States is not present, the statement made by a suspect or the accused shall not be adopted as evidence for conviction."

Professor of International Law Yi Chang-hui (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies) has firmly said that the 1991 revision of the SOFA is insubstantial. He said that, excepting severe crimes such as murder or rape, the ROK Government is still unable to exercise its jurisdiction and its rights to direct investigation over U.S. servicemen's crimes because of the various "exceptions," such as the minutes that were agreed upon. While the stir surrounding the murder of Ms. Yun Kum-i abates, crimes by U.S. servicemen are raising their head once more as if to jeer the insubstantial SOFA provisions. Professor Yi is going to hold a large-scale public hearing this July with a view to attracting public attention to the revision of the SOFA.

Aide in UK, U.S. To Study Election Systems

SK1605035394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0255
GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—A secretary to President Kim Yong-sam for political affairs, Yun Won-chung, left for London and Washington Monday to study the electoral systems of the two advanced democracies in support of Kim's election reform program.

Yun, an official at the office of the senior presidential secretary for political affairs, will tour the two countries for two weeks collecting data and meeting with officials

about their electoral systems, especially their election management systems, before returning home around May 29.

The amendments to Korea's election laws recently passed by the National Assembly have provided the legal grounds for clean and inexpensive polls, a Chongwadae [presidential offices] official said. The question now is how to implement the new laws to achieve clean and cheap elections, he added. "Secretary Yun will visit the United Kingdom and the United States to research their election management systems and collect data which may help implement the new laws," he said.

Ministry Trying to Defuse ROK-U.S. Trade Friction

SK1705021294 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in
English 17 May 94 p 2

[Report by Son Ke-yong]

[Text] As Seoul and Washington have been at loggerheads over imported American sausages for several months, the Foreign Ministry is seeking to defuse looming trade frictions between the two countries.

"The ministry is positively considering improving current regulations," said a ministry official, hinting that the government would move to partially accept U.S. demands.

The trade dispute was ignited March 22 when the Health-Social Affairs Ministry decided to reclassify U.S.-produced sausages, virtually banning their import.

The ministry said that Korean importers had brought into the country heat-treated chilled sausages after making a false declaration to authorities that they were importing non-heat treated frozen sausages in order to lengthen their shelf life.

The regulatory shelf life of non-heat treated frozen sausage is 90 days while that of heat-treated chilled sausage is 30 days.

Meanwhile, the United States raised the sausage issue at a recent GATT session, threatening to "review all options available and appropriate," a remark which has been used just before threatening to impose Super 301 trade sanctions.

The U.S. side claimed that the Seoul government slapped the import ban without any prior notice and any scientific evidence to determine that the sausages are hazardous to the public health.

An American sausage producers association has already asked the U.S. Government to designate Korea as a priority foreign country (PFC) in accordance with the Super 301 trade act.

So far, the Health-Social Affairs Ministry is showing no signs of yielding to the U.S. demand, asserting that it took due measures within legal boundaries.

"In consideration of public health, the ministry has no alternative but to ban the circulation of the sausage," said a health ministry official said.

The ministry has already taken punitive actions against officials in charge of the sausage import for neglecting their duties, which gives the ministry little maneuvering room in dealing with the issue.

In support of the ministry's decision, domestic consumers groups are preparing to launch a large-scale campaign against the import of American sausages, calling the U.S. threat "unacceptable."

The Citizens' Alliance for Consumer Protection of Korea already issued a statement last month, saying that it would boycott U.S. products if Washington doesn't drop its trade pressure.

In contrast with the health ministry's stand, the Foreign Ministry is considering adopting new measures to minimize trade frictions.

Currently, 37 container loads of U.S. sausage, worth \$1.3 million, have been sitting at the southern port of Pusan since mid- February.

The Foreign Ministry seems to think that there is no way to save the sausage in Pusan because its shelf life has almost expired.

It takes about one month to ship sausage from the United States to Korea and almost two months have passed since the ban was imposed.

"Even though the \$1.3 million worth of sausage is relatively small in view of trade volume between the two countries, it could have a serious impact on the bilateral trade relationship," an official said.

The ministry is expected to hold another consultation session with the Health-Social Affairs Ministry to upgrade the current food regulation laws.

The domestic market share of U.S. sausages amounts to 15 percent and large department stores and supermarkets have sold them to Korean consumers at relatively low prices compared with locally produced sausages, the health ministry said.

Survey Shows Most Want GATT Agreements Approved

SK1705024194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0211 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP)—An opinion poll has found that nearly three-quarters of the respondents think the National Assembly should approve the Uruguay Round trade agreements and prepare the nation for the upcoming era of global trade competition.

According to the poll conducted by Media Research Co. on May 11, 74.4 percent of the 700 adults questioned thought parliament should ratify the trade accords while 19 percent felt the agreements should be rejected. The telephone poll also showed that 55.3 percent reacted favorably to the Uruguay Round agreements with 37.5 percent expressing outright opposition, according to the results released Monday. Thirty-seven percent believe that President Kim Yong-sam has been doing a good job while 48.1 percent rated Kim's performance fair and 13.3 percent poor.

On the issue of the leaders of liberal opposition groups joining the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), 40.7 percent reacted favorably and 40.3 percent negatively.

The ruling DLP earned a 33.5-percent approval rating while the main opposition Democratic Party received 21.2 percent, the New Political Reform Party 8.6 percent, the New Korea Party 1.3 percent and the Unification National Party 1 percent. But 34.4 percent of the pollees said they supported no political party.

Seoul To Give PRC Ultimatum at Aviation Talks

SK1705015194 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 May 94 p 1

[By staff reporter O Yong-chin]

[Text] Korea is expected to give an ultimatum to China to withdraw its unacceptable demand or risk no agreement at all in their future aviation talks aimed at inaugurating regular flights between the two countries.

A senior official of the Transportation Ministry strongly hinted yesterday that it might have to stop the negotiations with China and open aviation talks with Taiwan, instead.

"Negotiations between Korea and China have been going nowhere over the past two years due to China's unacceptable demands. It is now time for Korea to consider another option, which is Taiwan," the official said.

Korea switched diplomatic ties to China from Taiwan two years ago. Since then, regular flights between Korea and Taiwan have been cut off, while Korea and China have initiated charter flights between Seoul and China's two cities, Shanghai and Tienjin.

For Korean Air alone, the loss from the closing of the Taiwan- Korea route is estimated to reach about 100 million U.S. dollars a year, according to an airline official. Hundreds of thousands of Taiwanese visited Korea annually before the diplomatic breakup.

"We can't accommodate China's demands, which are on the borderline with outrage," the official said. "Either they back off or else."

The two countries will make last-ditch efforts to conclude an aviation agreement in the next meeting, expected to take place later this month or early next month.

So far, there have been seven such meetings with the last one in February.

A major bone of contention is China's demand to unilaterally use a beyond point right from Seoul, possibly to Los Angeles, while Korea reserves its due right to link their flight from Beijing to Europe.

If that's not possible, China argued for its unilateral right to shuttle from a major Chinese city to Seoul, excluding the participation of a Korean airline.

None of China's demands is acceptable to Korea since they violate the basic spirit of "fair and equal opportunities" evident in all air agreements, according to the official.

He observed that China's demands are based on "fair and equal benefits," a typical socialist code but unacceptable in terms of market-oriented competition.

"At the moment, Korean carriers fly about 70 percent of passengers using Korea-China chartered flights, while the rest go to Air China," he said. "If regular flights open, the gap will be soaring."

He interpreted China's stubborn pursuit of the biased agreement as being aimed at rectifying the current imbalance of revenues and nipping in the bud the future runaway gap.

However, he said that some of the imbalance can be corrected through the negotiations between the two countries' airlines.

"The imbalance of revenues can be tackled through the consultations between the two countries' airlines, although the government can't dictate what policies they will take," he said.

Despite Korea's hint at using the Taiwan option, it remains to be seen whether it will actually use it if the future talks don't promise much since China is the only remaining upscale market Korea's airlines can exploit.

In addition, preventing Korea's strong hand is China's aviation policy that bans airlines flying to Taiwan, from serving Chinese routes.

Communications Ministry Delegation Leaves for PRC

*SK1605094394 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629
GMT 16 May 94*

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—The Communications Ministry sent a delegation to China Monday to discuss Korea's participation in projects for building a

communications network in Hunan Province and laying a 3,600-kilometer fiber optic cable between Beijing and Guangzhou.

Bilateral cooperation in the two projects was agreed on at a summit between South Korea and China and at a communications ministers' meeting in late March.

Hunan Province is asking Seoul for a 40-million-dollar loan out of the Economic Development and Cooperation Fund. The Chinese Government plans to spend 100 million dollars on the fiber optic cable project between Beijing and Guangzhou.

The Korean delegation, comprising officials from the Communications and Finance Ministries, Korea Telecom and other research institutes, will return May 21.

China Releases Captured South Korean Fishermen

*SK1605123294 Seoul YONHAP in English 1144
GMT 16 May 94*

[Text] Pusan, May 16 (YONHAP)—Twenty-two South Korean fishermen caught by Chinese patrol boats in the East China Sea late last month were set free in Shanghai, China Sunday and on their way home aboard one of their boats.

Eleven of the fishermen are those of Taehung-ho No. 27 and the remainder the crew of Songkwang-ho No. 2, both based in Pusan.

Officials of the National Fisheries Administration and the fishery companies they belong to said Monday the 22 fishermen are set to arrive in the Pusan harbor on Tuesday afternoon aboard Taehung-ho No. 27.

It was reported earlier in the day that Korea agreed with China to pay 13,728 U.S. dollars in return for their release. China earlier demanded 100,000 dollars.

Songkwang-ho No. 2 was cut loose after its crews were transferred to a Chinese patrol vessel when a nearby South Korean fishing boat followed the patrol ship towing Songkwang-ho No. 2 during the seizure on April 29.

PRC Data Cited on Joint-Venture Enterprises

*SK1605094694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648
GMT 16 May 94*

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—Amid the global investment rush into China, Korea ranks seventh in the number of businesses penetrating the vast market.

According to Chinese data, 167,500 enterprises are operating in China on a joint-venture or merger basis or independently, including 2,321 businesses from Korea.

Hong Kong ranked first with 106,900 firms operating in China, followed by 20,600 from Taiwan, 11,500 from the United States, 7,000 from Japan, 4,100 from Macao and 3,000 from Singapore.

Of the foreign business firms, 25,500 were merged and 34,000 were 100-percent foreign invested, with the rest being joint ventures.

Guangdong Province had the most foreign companies with 44,700, followed by Jiangsu Province with 18,000. The next provinces in order were Shandong, Fujian, Zhejiang and Shanghai City.

Foreign investment in China has been increasing rapidly in recent years. A total of 83,100 firms advanced into China in 1993 compared with 11,800 in 1991 and 47,100 in 1992.

Of the 7,000 large-scale projects exceeding 10 million dollars, 4,000 cases occurred in 1993 alone, a 2.6 times increase over the previous year.

Business circles forecast that, reflecting China's high economic growth, foreign investment will continue to boom with money pouring in from the United States and European Countries, drawn by Chinese efforts to attract more foreign enterprises.

Defense Contract Awarded to UK-France Company

PM1405112094 London THE DAILY
TELEGRAPH in English 14 May 94 p 15

[Robert Guest report: "BAe Wins 39m pound Seoul Arms Deal"]

[Text] Seoul—South Korea decided yesterday to award a 39 million pound contract to equip its destroyers with command and firing control systems to a joint British-French company.

The Surface Ship Combat System Mark 7 (SSCS), made by BAe-Sema [British Aerospace-French Electronics Group] processes battle data, enabling a destroyer to detect, target and neutralise enemy vessels before they can retaliate.

South Korea's Defence Ministry said it chose BAe-Sema's system over a rival German model, Cosys-200 KI, because the British product is better value, has superior logistical support and because the Royal Navy had decided to develop a compatible system.

The deal may be a sign that Seoul's arms procurement programme is being revived after a bribery scandal left it paralysed last year.

Seoul had been expected to opt for the SSCS Mk7 last summer but the Defence Ministry said the decision was delayed "due to problems arising from the credibility of the British manufacturer".

Military analysts believe the real reason for the delay was quite different. At the time the deal was being discussed, the reformist government of President Kim yong-sam was conducting a colossal purge of the remnants of the previous military-backed regime.

In the purge last year, 39 generals, two former defence ministers and a former naval chief of staff were sacked, reprimanded or jailed for "selling" promotions or taking kickbacks from arms manufacturers.

At such a time, no one wanted to be seen signing a multi-million-pound purchase order for fear that prosecutors might question their motives and subject their personal finances to an audit.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, the government spent a third of its budget on defence to deter any possible aggression from the hostile North.

The volume of money that was poured into the South Korean military was matched by the secrecy surrounding the way it was spent. Parliament had no right to scrutinise the military accounts, and corruption among senior officers was consequently rife.

Few high-ranking members of the old military government would emerge unscathed from a rigorous financial probe.

Air Force Receives Spanish Transport Planes

SK1205061994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0508
GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—The air force took delivery of an undisclosed number of all-weather medium-sized CN-235m transport planes from Spain in a ceremony held at a base near Pusan Thursday afternoon, with Chief of Staff Gen. Kim Hong-nae and other ranking officers attending.

The aircraft, manufactured by Casa Co. of Spain according to U.S. Air Force technical and operational requirements, will replace C-54 and -123 [as received] planes to improve the country's military transport capability.

Gen. Kim, saying modern warfare hinges on military transport operations, exhorted the air force to train for early tactical deployment and operation of the new transport planes.

The CN-235m can conduct all airborne operations such as drops of paratroopers, military supplies and flares in inclement weather and at night, as it is equipped with an inertial navigational system, a satellite navigational data receiver, a weather radar system and an electronic countermeasure system.

It can carry 48 armed troops and 4,989 kg of supplies and fly for 10 hours at a cruising speed of 398 km per hour. Its maximum altitude is 9.14 km, cruising range 3,314 km and maximum takeoff load 16,465 kg.

Casa started developing the CN-235m in 1980, test-flew it in 1983 and began commercial production in 1986. It has thus far sold 140 of this aircraft, including 41 for civilian use, to 16 countries.

The air force, under a plan to improve its military transport capability begun in 1989, selected in April 1992 the CN-235m to replace the obsolete C-54 and -123 aircraft after a comparative examination of this model and Italy's G-222 model.

When deployed, the new transport aircraft will carry out normal military transport operations as well as such special missions as anti-irregular warfare, rescue and airlift operations to special areas.

Foreign Minister Han Leaves for Southeast Asia

SK1505061094 Seoul YONHAP in English 0236
GMT 15 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu left the country Sunday morning on an official trip that will take him to the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia.

During the visit until May 25, Minister Han is expected to discuss matters of mutual concern with his counterparts in the countries he visits. The issues they will review would include the North Korean nuclear question, the coming APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation) summit and questions of regional cooperation in the Asia-Pacific area.

He will visit Manila on May 15-17, Bangkok May 17-19, Hanoi May 19-22 and Jakarta May 22-25.

Russia Offers Property To Repay Overdue Loan

SK1205063594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0521
GMT 12 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 12 (YONHAP)—Russia wants to repay part of its overdue debt to South Korea by offering a building site for the Korea-Russia Trade Center, the Korea Trade Promotion Corp. (KOTRA) said Thursday.

The Russian Government has decided in principle to give Korea 5 hectares (15,000 pyong) of land currently reserved for the use of Moscow University for the trade center in exchange for some of its outstanding liabilities, and is discussing details with the Moscow city hall.

City officials and university authorities are said to strongly oppose the plan, but the government favors the idea and is likely to look for other sites if it cannot get the land, KOTRA officials said.

If Seoul accepts Moscow's proposal at a joint economic committee meeting slated for May 19-23 here, repayment of some of Russia's liabilities with Korea will be resolved.

KOTRA, however, has its heart set on the land owned by the university campus and may seek to locate the trade center there without linking it with Korea's loans to Russia, officials said.

"We exchanged a memorandum of understanding with Moscow city and the university last month to set up a trade center within the university," an official said.

The memorandum was signed without any linkage to the loan so the Seoul Government can decide whether to attach the matter to the loan repayment, he said.

KOTRA, regardless of the outcome of the project's linkage to the loan, is sounding out local companies to determine their interest in the center. Such firms as Dongbu, Daelim and Byoksan have shown an affirmative response.

The center will be comprised of four sectors—exhibition, department store, hotel and apartments—and is expected to cost 300 million U.S. dollars.

Seoul had failed to settle some of the loan repayment with rent for the Korean industrial complex in Nakhodka due to opposition from Moscow.

Korea loaned 1.27 billion dollars in economic aid to the former Soviet Union and interest on the outstanding liabilities had reached 387 million dollars as of the end of last year.

20,000 Attend Rally To Mark Kwangju Uprising

SK1805114594 Seoul YONHAP in English 1129
GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Kwangju, South Korea, May 18 (YONHAP)—Some 20,000 citizens and students marked the 14th anniversary of the civil uprising for democracy here in 1980 in a ceremony held in the provincial government plaza on Wednesday afternoon.

Kang Shin-sok, chairman of the 14th anniversary organizing committee, called for investigation into the truth of a bloody clash between pro-democracy demonstrators and Army martial law troops that killed and injured hundreds of citizens and students, saying the Kwangju problem would not be settled without shedding light on the truth and punishing those responsible for the killing.

The participants resolved to oppose the United States pressing for market opening and arms import and have all democratic forces united for national reunification.

Earlier in the day, over 5,000 people paid tribute to the victims of the uprising in a memorial service held in the Mangwol-tong Cemetery, while demanding punishment of those responsible for the killing and investigating into the truth of the killing.

The late Park Kwan-hyon, who was killed while leading a student demonstration as president of the Chonnam National University student government 14 years ago, and Yun Chom-sun were given the Kwangju Citizens'

Prize. Yun has been active in democratization movements over the past 14 years, while supporting her mother who suffered an eye wound and lost her sight during the uprising.

Memorial services were also held in Catholic and Protestant churches.

The police deployed some 8,000 riot policemen at major points of the city to prepare for an emergency.

Article Examines Kim Yong-sam Faction in Military

SK1705005294 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 16 May 94 p 3

[Report by Yi Sang-ki]

[Text] During the military regime period, most military personnel was from the Taegu and North Kyongsang Province [TK] area and Chungchong Province centering on the Hanahoe. Since the Kim Yong-sam government set sail, however, military generals from Pusan and South Kyongsang Provinces [PK], which is President Kim's hometown as well as his political base of operation, are increasingly apparent.

Moreover, generals from the PK region occupy key positions in the military where there is the possibility of exercising influence on those from these regions. Officers point out that this is greatly hindering military harmony and morale.

Military authorities state: "The government's military personnel reform is focused on excluding the members of Hanahoe. However, to choose generals from the Pusan and South Kyongsang Province region regardless of their capability and temperament is the same as when the Hanahoe monopolized the military in the past." They also express the worry that intervention in military personnel changes by Chongwadae [presidential offices] aides and authority figures is the same as when Chongwadae's Security Service intervened in the past.

Currently, Chongwadae and the Ministry of Defense is influencing the military. Those from the PK region occupy an absolute advantage over those from other regions in key posts in each military headquarters. Pak Kwan-yong, Chongwadae's chief secretary, graduated from Tongnae High School in Pusan; and Chong Chong-uk, assistant to the president for foreign and national security affairs, graduated from Pusan High School.

Defense Minister Yi Pyong-tae graduated from Kyongnam High School, where President Kim also graduated. Regardless of a small number of military officers from this school, during personnel changes last spring military officers, including Brigadier General Pyon Ho-in, who graduated from the 24th class of the Military Academy, was promoted to major general and now occupies a position in the key division of the capital district. While appointing generals to take command of a

division of the capital district, almost all of those who graduated from Kyongnam High School were promoted. Those who graduated from Kyongnam High School include Major General Chon Sang-pae from the 22d class of the Military Academy, who is the chief of staff of intelligence of the ROK Army Headquarters; Maj. Gen. An Song-yong from the 23d class of the Military Academy, who is the commander of a division in the capital district; and Pak No-suk from the 24th class of the Military Academy, who is the chief secretary of the Chief of Staff of the ROK Army.

In the past military government the main current of the military was the TK faction, as well as those who graduated from Pusan High School. Even in the Kim government, those who graduated from Pusan High School occupy key positions including the Chongwadae and the military. Gen. Yun Yong-nam from the 19th class of the Military Academy, who is the commander of the three armed services; Yu Chong-kap, who was promoted to lieutenant general in April, is the director of intelligence headquarters under the Defense Military; Maj. Gen. Han Sung-ui from the 22d class of the Military Academy, who is the policy and planning officer of the Defense Ministry; and Yi Ui-se from the 22d class of the Military Academy, who is the commander of an intelligence command, are all from Pusan High School.

Military figures from Pusan and South Kyongsang Provinces are regarded as those who hold key positions under the current government through school and regional connections. Lieutenant Gen. Yi Yu-su from the 20th class of the Military Academy, who was promoted to head of the field Army; Maj. Gen. Cho Yong-nae from the 177th class of the class-A officers' candidate school; and Maj. Gen. Kim Hui-sang from the 24th class of the Military Academy, were promoted to divisional commander by the new government. Four to five high-ranking cadres, including Commander Yim Chae-mun from the third class of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Defense Security Command, are from Pusan and South Kyongsang Provinces.

The Kim Yong-sam government is inclined to exclude almost all of the TK figures from military personnel changes. In October's regular personnel change, not one person out of the 20 from the TK region were promoted to lieutenant general and major general. In the April personnel change, only one person out of the 13 was promoted from this region. A Defense Ministry colonel expressed dissatisfaction by saying: "Whenever the opportunity arises, the military supreme command states that military morale is higher than ever before. Nevertheless, mainly officers from the president's hometown are chosen for key posts and promotions. It seems that the military as a force for a possible coup d'etat is still recognized."

Another problem is that Chongwadae aides and the president's closest aides are interfering in military personnel changes. People who have a good knowledge of military personnel reveal that since the inauguration of

the Kim regime, outside pressure for military personnel changes takes places with each passing day. An unidentified general said: "Since the last period of last year, the president's direct family members, who have no relation with the military, have been meeting with high-ranking military generals and interfering in military affairs, including personnel changes. A popular joke among the generals these days is that if you have not met any of the president's family members, you are an impostor."

Article Discusses Decline of Defense Industry

SK1205044894 *Seoul SISA JOURNAL in Korean*
12 May 94 pp 15-19

[Article by reporter Kim Pang-hui: "Defense Industry on a Ruinous Road and the Collapse of a Self-Reliant National Defense"]

[Text] "Turn cannonballs into coins." This is not a mere euphemism to describe an era when economic war has replaced the cold war; This describes the urgent situation in which ROK defense-industry companies have no choice but to make changes on their own.

Pungsan virtually led the ROK defense industry, and its main business was manufacturing. However, domestic demand for artillery shells plummeted, and as a result, the company faced a serious management crisis. Consequently, it is drastically curtailing its facilities for producing defense-industry materials. It is also cutting its work force for the defense industry by 800 a year. The company is making coins in the United States by using knowhow gained from manufacturing copper artillery shells.

Past Special Privileges Are Now a Form of Bondage

Approximately 80 defense-industry companies, including Pungsan, are now facing difficulties in management primarily because domestic demand for conventional weapons has almost been met. The domestic defense-industry companies are now operated at close to 40 percent of capacity.

Similarities between defense-industry companies and ordinary companies end when it comes to their difficulties in management. Defense-industry companies cannot freely close their shops. This is due to the legacy of a special government policy for the defense-industry companies.

If a defense-industry company facing serious management difficulties wants to dismantle facilities used exclusively for the defense industry, it must obtain approval from the government under the Special Law for Fostering the Defense Industry. This law was promulgated in 1973 and has made it possible for the government to give various forms of assistance to defense-industry companies. This special treatment has turned into a form of bondage.

Of course, even if defense-industry companies freely dismantle defense-related facilities and relocate workers to other areas, the government has no effective means to punish those companies. In fact, since the mid-1980's many defense-industry companies have dismantled defense-related facilities in disregard of the law.

Companies that manufacture firearms, shells, mobile equipment, and other weapons and small and medium-size companies have a strong tendency to dismantle defense-related facilities. Even big companies that were over 20 percent defense industry-related have reduced defense activities to less than 10 percent. The president of a defense-industry subsidiary of a big business group says: "General sentiment in this industry is that the defense industry is a shortcut to ruin."

"Almost All Defense-Industry Companies Will Disappear in Three to Four Years"

Under these circumstances, Paek Yong-hun, chairman of the Defense Industry Association and director of the Korea Industrial Development Institute, says: "Almost all companies that manufacture basic military weapons will disappear in three to four years. Is it all right for defense-industry companies to disappear like this?"

It is not its share in the ROK economy that makes the defense industry important. Even though exact statistics are not available, the net sales of the defense industry were close to 28 trillion won in 1990. The most serious problem of our defense industry is that even though various countries of the world are curtailing this "industry of death," we are not in a position to do so.

This is why the government cannot do anything about this industry. Representatives of the defense industry who attended the 15 April "high-level policy meeting to foster the defense industry" asked the government to make some sort of decision with regard to the defense industry.

What would happen if defense industrial companies that produce basic weapons were to disappear from our country? The government would lose not only the capability of supplying basic weapons in an emergency, but also not be able to procure the sources for the spare parts necessary in manufacturing basic weapons. This will then result in reducing the country's self-defense capability. The defense industry has an aspect which cannot be judged from a viewpoint of mere economic logic just like at the time when we began to develop this industry 25 years ago.

Another aspect of the defense industry is that unlike other industries, this industry has no room to grow. In other words, today, when heavy and chemical industries, which were once deemed failures have returned to the stage of success, only the defense industry is in a state of decline. This is because there is not gateway out. In other words, the defense industry can not grow like other industries because it lacks export activities.

The United States Has Been Stingy in Transferring High Technology to the ROK

Exports in the defense industry were actually blocked by restrictions imposed by the United States. The National Defense Ministry has not officially made public the balance of payments in the defense industry sector. However, it has been learned that the defense industry sector accumulated debts of over \$2 billion in the nineties. In the eighties, the deficit amounted only to \$1 billion.

The defense industry's domestic demand has been met, and exports have been blocked. Such being the situation, the future of our defense industry is very dark and gloomy. The "Report on Military Cooperation and Competition Between the United States and Allied Countries For 1992" of the U.S. Congress' Military Technology Evaluation Committee which was conveyed to the National Defense Ministry via the American Embassy in Seoul, indicates the following in connection with the ROK defense industry: "The ROK's basic purpose is to maintain the present defense industry and to achieve complete self-reliance in weapon production capability.

"However, it will be difficult to achieve this by the next century."

While this report properly reveals the vulnerability of the ROK defense industry, it foresees that the ROK defense industry will be completely self-reliant in weapons production capability by the next century, and this is too optimistic a view of the future of the ROK defense industry.

Admittedly, the domestic defense industry has made equally rapid progress as the other industries. The ROK has become the only country which has become self-reliant in the production of basic weapons in the short period of less than 10 years. It is not too much to say that the ROK's success in the defense industry sector was realized from its "tactic of relying on" the United States. The ROK began to rapidly develop the defense industry by receiving grant-type military aid, loans from foreign military sales [FMS], and military technology materials [TDP] from the United States as early as in the fifties.

In particular, data on U.S. military technology provided by the United States since 1971 has been the main source for the ROK to attain U.S. military technology. Data for over 1,000 such cases of U.S. military technology was transferred from the United States to the ROK thus far, and this can be evaluated as having greatly contributed to the development and production of as many as 200 different types of weapons in our country. This data has greatly contributed to developing Korean-type arms such as Korean-type armored vehicles and Korean-type tanks in particular.

Besides the technological aspect, the ROK defense industry's dependence on the United States is great. Among other things, over 70 percent of the weapons the

ROK purchases from abroad are of U.S. origin. Moreover, the ROK defense industry has been producing the weapons of U.S. origin through technological licence agreement or has been producing them jointly with the United States since the seventies. Since it began producing M16 rifles through a licence agreement in 1971, the ROK defense industry has produced M60 light machine-guns and various kinds of communications equipment through licensing agreements. This led to our attainment of complete local production of this type of the weaponry.

In the 1980's, the ROK began the off-set program [as published] with the United States and has since then actively pushed ahead with joint production. The defense industry, which has jointly produced some basic weaponry, has been making considerable progress in the area of aircraft production. The defense industry has produced F-5E/F fighter-bombers and 500MD helicopters jointly with the United States, and is jointly producing F-16's at present.

The problem in our cooperation with the United States in defense industry is that our dependence on the United States has become too great. This problem has become even more burdensome since the 1980's when the U.S. Government and the U.S. defense industry began to regard the ROK defense industry as a competitor. There has been discord between the ROK and the United States over U.S. restriction of ROK weapons exports, transfer of advanced military technology, opening up of the defense industry market, and compromise trade [cholchung kyoyok].

For instance, the United States, while providing the ROK with military technology data, has been stingy in providing data for relatively advanced technology, such as in aviation and marine and submarine guided weapons systems. Up to 1990, not more than 10 technological transfers were made in these areas. Moreover, the ROK Government has requested that the United States conduct joint research and development or joint production for key technology transfer of defense industry, but little progress has been made so far. In the latter half of the 1980's, the ROK submitted a request for U.S. technology related to laser and guided weapons and detection of submarines and sound, which the United States rejected.

No doubt, it would be most desirable if the ROK could develop advanced weapons and technology on its own. However, reality is not that simple. For instance, key technologies designated by the Defense Institute [as published] as high precision weapons that need to be procured by the 2000's, were already being used in the United States in the latter half of the eighties.

In view of the level of ROK science and technology and its capability of acquiring funds for research and development, independent development is not easy. Hwang Tong-chun, policy development officer of the Defense

Research Institute, said that in this respect, the ROK-U.S. defense industrial cooperation will be an important factor that will determine the fate of the local defense industry.

How much necessary technology the ROK can obtain with the present research and development system is another important factor connected with the future of the defense industry. Unlike other industries, the National Defense and Science Institute, a state policy research institute, has a monopoly on the defense industry's research and development. This institute's annual budget is estimated to be about 200 billion won, of which about 60 percent is allocated to defense industry businesses for development and production.

Whether this monopolistic system in research and development is appropriate in view of the trend of the defense industry which is attaching increasing importance to technology that can be used both for civilian and military purposes is subject to controversy. A considerable number of experts assert that a considerable number of the 800 projects which the institute is charged with should be transferred to civilian businesses, but the institute refused to comment on this assertion.

Judgment Based on Economic Theory Is Hardly Workable

The perspective on the defense industry has changed drastically from the seventies to the eighties. During the former, the defense industry was seen from a perspective of national survival rather than economic theory. This was the logic former President Pak Chong-hui upheld in cultivating defense industry. Former President Chon Tu-hwan, however, asserted that economic logic be applied to the defense industry as well, following the advice of economic aides and ministers whom he favored.

Depending on the weight placed on either of the two assertions, the defense industrial experts can be divided into two groups—one favoring local development and production, and the other favoring overseas purchase. The former's assertion is that in order to cultivate the local defense industry, we should produce weapons locally through our own research and development. On the other hand, the latter's assertion is that we should not hesitate to purchase weapons from abroad if we are unable to have relative superiority in local development.

At one time, the two differing approaches were referred to as the "Taejon faction view" and the "Hongnung faction view" according to the organizations they belonged. Taejon was home to the National Defense and Science Institute (ADD) [as published], while Hongnung was home to the Korea Institute of Defense Administration (KIDA). The two organizations have been feuding since the early eighties when researchers of the National Defense and Science Institute were dismissed en masse according to former President Chon Tu-hwan's instructions. This difference in view is considered to persist today.

According to defense experts, whichever view assumes greater weight, a view for the nineties needs to be formed, as the lack of principle in the defense industry will result in the collapse of this important industry, which, in turn, could result in a fatal defect in the ROK's self-defense capabilities.

An even more difficult point is that conclusions regarding the defense industry should not come from the working level officials of the Defense Ministry. An Pyong-kil, second assistant defense minister, said, "The Defense Ministry's coordination ability regarding defense industry policy is limited," and added, "The problem of defense industry should be reviewed from an entirely different perspective starting from scratch."

Ex-Presidents Exempted in Sangmudae Probe

SK1605092894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0529
GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—The opposition Democratic Party (DP) has decided to exclude former and incumbent presidents as well as incumbent lawmakers and senior officials from the former No Tae-u government in selecting witnesses for the first stage of parliament's investigation into the Sangmudae scandal.

Members of the Party's Supreme Committee met Monday morning and agreed to make the compromise in an effort to get the investigation started as soon as possible.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) and the DP have held a series of consultations but failed to reach a compromise on who should testify in the parliamentary probe.

Chongwoo Construction Co. allegedly set up a slush fund while carrying out an Army project to relocate training facilities in Sangmudae, Kwangju.

The DP alleges that the fund was established to supply bribes to ranking officials of the previous administration and for political contributions to Kim Yong-sam during the 1992 presidential election.

The opposition party plans to begin the parliamentary probe first by questioning 30 witnesses that it agreed with the DLP to question: It will demand that more people testify if it is disclosed that those who were excluded from selection were involved in the scandal.

Furthermore, the DP has decided to demand 20 more days for the probe, in addition to the 20 days already agreed with the DLP, considering that the period is too short for parliament to conduct a thorough investigation.

Officials Arrested in Taejon Expo Bribery Cases

SK1605013194 Seoul YONHAP in English 0051
GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—Eleven government officials have been arrested and sued on charges of

taking bribes while they were assigned to the Taejon Expo organizing committee between 1991 and 1993, the public prosecution announced Monday.

Kim Ki-yop, currently working at the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, received bribes totaling 41 million won (about 50,000 U.S. dollars) from nine business firms while serving as sponsor program chief of the Expo organizing committee, the announcement said.

The prosecution has also obtained arrest warrants for Chon So-myong, former landscaping section chief of the organizing committee, and Kim U-hyon, former utilities section chief of the committee, on the same charges and placed them on a wanted list as they have disappeared.

In addition, the prosecution found that 26 officials had taken bribes of up to 7 million won while they were serving on the organizing committee and referred them to the agencies currently employing them for disciplinary action.

The officials involved in the Expo bribery cases now work at 10 government ministries and agencies—the Education, Construction, Trade, Industry and Energy, Communications, Government Administration and Culture-sports ministries, the Economic Planning Board, the Office of Supply, the Korea Industrial Property Office and Taejon City Hall.

Opposition Decries DLP Chairman's Remark on Coup

SK1505060694 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 May 94 p 2

[Text] Opposition parties yesterday criticized harshly Kim Chong-pil, chairman of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), who made a remark justifying the May 16 military coup in 1961.

The major opposition Democratic Party (DP) charged that Kim distorted history by calling the May 16 coup a "military revolution."

"It is absurd for the chairman of the DLP, which alleged it succeeded to the spirit of the April 19 Revolution, to say that it succeeded to the May 16 military coup, too," Pak Chi-won, DP spokesman, said.

He further said, "Kim's remark was a mockery against history, a deceit against the people and a challenge to President Kim Yong-sam, who concurrently heads the DLP."

Saying that the Pak Chong-hui regime self-disintegrated because of inner contradictions of dictatorship, Kim Su-il, spokesman of the splinter United People's Party, said, "Kim Chong-pil should retire from the political world."

In a lecture to students in a high school in Seoul Friday, Kim said what he terms the May 16 revolution was

planned and carried out to develop the nation's economy above all else as a precondition for enhancing democracy.

The late President Pak, then an Army major general, and his military followers including Kim ousted the then democratic government led by Prime Minister John M. Chang through a coup on May 16, 1961, and took power.

The Chang government was founded based on the student revolution of April 19, 1960, which overthrew the Syngman Rhee dictatorship.

Last November, President Kim, who was inaugurated in February 1993 after about 30 years of authoritarian rule by military general-turned-presidents, defined the May 16 incident as a military coup while the April 19 uprising was termed a revolution.

Trade Ministry Reports on Wage Negotiations

SK1405035894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0145 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 14 (YONHAP)—Labor-management wage negotiations have been settled an average of two weeks earlier than in 1993 and this year's pay hikes are higher, the Trade, Industry and Energy Ministry said Saturday.

As of May 11, out of the 5,483 workplaces with 100 or more employees around the country, wages had been agreed at 1,323 workplaces for a settlement rate of 24.1 percent. On the same date last year, the ratio stood at 16.7 percent.

Among the workplaces which have settled wage negotiations, the average salary hike came to 5.9 percent, up 1.4 percentage point from 4.5 percent last year. Among the 30 major business groups, 57 of 392 workplaces have settled wage talks for a settlement rate of 24.1 percent, compared with 12.2 percent last year.

Labor unions are demanding different wage hikes according to the category of business. Automobile unions called for a 15-16 percent rise and shipbuilding unions demanded an increase of 12-13 percent, but these figures are 5-6 percentage points below those of last year.

Meanwhile, labor unions in the Hyundai and Daewoo business groups plan to withdraw from the Federation of Korean Trade Unions, and there is a movement toward forming a stronger federation of labor unions.

Employers' Federation Reports on Wages, Employment

SK1705023894 Seoul YONHAP in English 0011 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP)—South Korea's pay rise last year was far higher than that of advanced countries as well as Asian rivals Hong Kong and Taiwan, the Korea Employers' Federation (KEF) said Tuesday.

Korea's wage increase rate hit 12.2 percent last year, 1 percentage point and 5.1 points, respectively, higher than Hong Kong's 11.2 percent and Taiwan's 7.1 percent.

Korea and Taiwan saw their pay rise drop 3.0 percentage points and 3.2 points, respectively, from 1992's 15.2 percent and 10.3 percent, while Hong Kong posted an increase of 1 point.

In the United States, wages were up 2.7 percent (down from 1992's 2.8 percent), while the rates were 3.4 percent in Britain (off 2.7 points) and 2.7 percent in Germany (off 2.8 points).

Japan marked a rise of 0.3 percent (down from 2.1 percent); France, 2.8 percent (down from 4.1 percent); And Italy, 2.8 percent (down from 5.3 percent).

Unemployment rose 2.8 percent in Korea last year (up from 2.4 percent), while it dropped to 1.6 percent from 2.1 percent in Hong Kong. Taiwan maintained the same rate of 1.5 percent.

The jobless rate was 6.9 percent in the United States (down from 7.4 percent), 11.7 percent in France (up from 10.4 percent) and 10.3 percent in Britain (up from 10 percent).

Country Close To Making Key Semiconductor Parts

SK1605025594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0133
GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—Korea is close to producing key semiconductor parts completely on its own, industry sources said Monday.

POSCO-huls, an affiliate of Pohang Iron and Steel Co., Lucky-Goldstar Group's Siltron and Poongsan Precision are gearing up to develop silicone wafers and semiconductor lead frames in preparation for mass production of 16 Megabyte Dynamic Random Access (DRAM) memory chips from the second half of the year.

POSCO-huls is poised to step up production of its eight-inch wafers to reach annual capacity of 35 million square inches by year-end and 60 million square inches by next year to meet the demand for 16 M-DRAM chips.

Predicting the mainstay of semiconductor production will shift to 16 M-DRAM next year from 4 M-DRAM, the company will change its wafer production ratio of 4 M-DRAM and 16 M-DRAM to 4:6 from the current 6:4.

Siltron, which concentrates on six-inch wafers making up 4 M-DRAM chips, will make 40 million square inches of eight-inch wafers by late this year so as to localize 90 percent of the material, which is currently more than 50-percent dependent on imports.

Poongsan Precision, which succeeded in developing a super-thin lead frame enveloping ASIC (Application-Specific Integrated Circuit), will install stamping facilities to mass produce lead frames for 16 M-DRAM chips by the end of this year.

Dongbu Steel is reportedly preparing to make polycrystalline silicone from next year since it is ready to begin manufacturing its main material, trichloro-silica.

Burma**Yunnan Province Governor, Delegation Begin Visit****Received by Than Shwe**

*BK1705145594 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Senior General Than Shwe, chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) of the Union of Myanmar [Burma] and commander in chief of the Defense Services, received the visiting delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Yunnan Province Governor He Zhiqiang at the Ministry of Defense's Dagon House at 1000 today.

Also present were General Maung Aye, vice chairman of SLORC and deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services; Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of SLORC; Lt. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2 of SLORC; Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development; U Ohn Gyaw, minister of foreign affairs; Thura U Aung Htet, director general of the Protocol Department; and Liang Feng, PRC ambassador to Burma.

Meet With Ministers

*BK1705155694 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese
1330 GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] The visiting delegation from the People's Republic of China led by Yunnan Province Governor He Zhiqiang called on Brigadier General Abel, minister of national planning and economic development, at the Myanmar [Burma] Investment Commission Office today. At the meeting cordial talks were held on bilateral economic cooperation matters.

The party also called on U Aung Thaung, deputy minister of trade, and U Win Sein, minister of rail transportation, at their respective offices.

It has been learned that responsible personnel from the departments and enterprises under the respective ministries attended the meetings and held talks on bilateral economic cooperation matters.

Members of the economic cooperation mission accompanying the Yunnan provincial governor and delegation also held talks with relevant personnel at the Myanmar Investment Commission Office and at the Inland Water Transport Office.

In the evening, U Aung Thaung, deputy minister of trade, hosted a dinner in honor of the Yunnan provincial governor and delegation at Karaweik Hall.

SLORC Journal Article on Thai Royalty Reviewed

*BK1605094594 Oslo Democratic Voice of Burma in
Burmese 1430 GMT 15 May 94*

["Article" by R.J. Strider and Pyone Cho]

[Text] The February issue of MYETKHIN THIT journal, published by the intelligence service of SLORC [State Law and Order Restoration Council], contains language detrimental to the prestige of Thai Crown Princess Mahachakri Sirinthon, and has caused embarrassment to the SLORC.

On page 135 of issue no. 46 is an article in the form of a dialogue between a Vietnamese national, Nguyen Nge and a Burmese national, Saw Indei. The dialogue contains terms insulting to Thai Princess Mahachakri Sirinthon, daughter of the Thai king. It makes references to Mahachakri Sirinthon being world-famous for being born as a daughter of the Thai king. It contains references saying that had she been born of a (?Burmese) peasant, Sirinthon may well have been a prostitute.

The same article says prostitution has become a traditional source of livelihood in Thailand and that Thailand is achieving a high standard of living through prostitution and that the revolutionary trait has disappeared. If such a rude reference had been made to the daughter of the Thai king in Thailand, there would certainly be charges of lese majeste and harsh punishment.

Such an article could not have been published without official authorization in Burma, where there are strict censorship rules and the Army strictly controls the publication of journals. MYETKHIN THIT has been published by the SLORC since 1990 and has been used to blatantly attack democratic forces inside and outside the country, political leaders, foreign countries, and Western diplomats.

Po Kan Kaung's article in the February issue of MYETKHIN THIT journal has surprised many Burmese observers because relations between Thailand and Burma have been good. Thailand, which has been enjoying special privileges in timber and fishery concessions, has been opposing international efforts to isolate the SLORC. Lately, the SLORC, which has been expanding economic relations with other countries, including Singapore, has accused Thai businessmen of illegal fishing and logging.

It is possible that the article, which contains crude language, may well reflect the SLORC government's displeasure with the Thais. The article also contains references that could damage the prestige of the Thai military. The article says that since the end of World War II, Thailand has been instrumental in spreading U.S. imperialism in Southeast Asia, and that the Thai Armed Forces have been under the patronage of the U.S. Army. While the Burmese and the Vietnamese Defense Services were discharging their national duty, the Thai Armed Forces lacked revolutionary characteristics.

Despite the allegations made by MYETKHIN THIT, there has been a surprising lack of reaction from the Thai Armed Forces and entrepreneurs.

According to one source, although Thai military intelligence obtained the article, they suppressed the report to prevent it from leaking to the Thai public. It can be seen that although the Burmese generals are insulting the prestige of Thailand, Thai military officials are remaining silent over the matter for their own self-interest.

Four Karen Insurgents Surrender 10 May

BK1705160394 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Members of the armed organizations in the jungles, who have come to accept the work being undertaken and the genuine goodwill of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, continue to give up their armed struggle and are surrendering with their arms and ammunition at various military camps.

On 10 May, Privates Khin Maung Toe, Win Kyi, Kyaw Than, and Sai Naung Chin from the 2d Company, 8th Battalion, 3d Brigade of the Karen armed organization, surrendered together with four M-16 automatic rifles, 10 magazines, and 420 rounds of ammunition at the Kyunbinseik Garrison, Kyaukkyi, in the southern military command region. They were warmly welcomed by camp personnel.

Cambodia

Further on Proposed Roundtable Peace Talks

King Calls for Talks Without Cease-Fire

BK1805055794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0400 GMT 18 May 94

[King Norodom Sihanouk's 17 May statement in French proposing roundtable talks in Pyongyang without preliminary cease-fire read to the 18 May session of the National Assembly and translated into Cambodian by an unidentified MP—recorded]

[Text] Statement of Norodom Sihanouk, King of Cambodia; Phnom Penh, 17 May 1994:

The Kingdom of Cambodia and its unfortunate people are sinking deeper everyday into the abyss of national annihilation. In the face of so much misery befalling my motherland and to an increasing number of Cambodians in our provinces, I cannot give up my work to restore peace with national reconciliation. As the cease-fire that I have proposed is not realizable for the time being, I have the honor now of announcing roundtable talks without a preliminary cease-fire at my Chhanghsu-on residence near Pyongyang, the DPRK, within 10 days—

that is, on Friday 27 May 1994. This roundtable, if necessary, can be extended until Tuesday 31 May 1994.

I most respectfully invite to this roundtable His Excellency Samdech Chea Sim, His Royal Highness Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, His Excellency Samdech Hun Sen, and His Excellency Mr. Khieu Samphan, as well as their respective entourages.

Proposal Supported by Chea Sim, CPP

BK1805072294 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 May 94

[Message from Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party, to King Norodom Sihanouk; issued in Phnom Penh on 17 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Majesty, all of us who are your children in the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] would like to inform Your Majesty of our resolute and enthusiastic support for your statement dated 17 May 1994 in which Your Majesty graciously proposes that a roundtable be held at the Chhanghsu-on Palace, the DPRK, on 27 May 1994.

All Your Majesty's children in the CPP and I forever follow Your Majesty's august and enlightened initiative to bring peace and national reconciliation for the motherland and Cambodian people.

Majesty, please accept our highest veneration and loyalty.

Issued in Phnom Penh on 17 May 1994.

[Signed] Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the CPP

Supported by National Assembly

BK1705150794 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 17 May 94

[Message from Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly; Loy Simchheang, first vice chairman; and Son Soubert, second vice chairman; dated 17 May—read by announcer]

[Text] Most respectfully to His Majesty Norodom Sihanouk Varaman, king of the Kingdom of Cambodia:

Majesty, on behalf of the National Assembly and its Standing Committee, we beg your permission to give you assurances of our resolute support for your statement dated 17 May 1994 in which your majesty graciously propose that a roundtable be held at the Chhanghsu-on Palace, in the DPRK, on 27 May 1994. For the nation, motherland, and Cambodian people, we forever follow your majesty's august and enlightened initiative.

Majesty, please accept our highest veneration and loyalty.

Issued in Phnom Penh on 17 May 1994.

[Signed] Samdech Chea Sim, chairman; H.E. Loy Simchheang, first vice chairman; H.E. Son Soubert, second vice chairman

Co-Prime Ministers in Pyongyang Agree

BK1805083594 Hong Kong AFP in English 0548 GMT 18 May 94

[By Philip McClellan]

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 18 (AFP)—Cambodian co-premiers Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Hun Sen said Wednesday they had agreed to hold peace talks in Pyongyang with the Khmer Rouge without preconditions, in response to an appeal by King Norodom Sihanouk.

The co-premiers had sent an official letter to the king "saying that we are ready to go to Pyongyang without ceasefire, without preconditions," Prince Ranariddh told journalists at Phnom Penh airport. "Let talks begin," he added.

He said a ceasefire that had been a precondition for holding the talks—which are also to be attended by National Assembly chairman Chea Sim—had blocked the peace process.

"We have to do something to overcome the deadlock and my father (King Sihanouk) said the only one thing to do is to have talks without a ceasefire," he added.

"We are going to Pyongyang because we believe that we will have peace and national reconciliation, otherwise we would not go," he said when asked if he felt optimistic.

Hun Sen said the talks, beginning on May 27, would be based on a peace plan put forward by King Sihanouk, but added that the government had yet to get a response from Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan regarding the proposal.

King Sihanouk has proposed that certain "acceptable" members of the Khmer Rouge be given senior cabinet posts in the government in exchange for giving up their zones, ceasing all guerrilla activities and merging their fighters with the royal armed forces.

Prince Ranariddh has downplayed Khmer Rouge guerrilla activities as "hit and run," but said that the rebel "threat" had to be stopped for the sake of the country, adding that King Sihanouk's proposal was the best chance for peace.

Asked whether he thought foreign military aid would escalate the Cambodian civil war, the prince said that "insecurity" was rife in Cambodia, and that action had to be taken against the Khmer Rouge.

But he added that weapons would not be enough and that Cambodia was in dire need of development and civil programs, as well as a restructuring of its armed forces.

King Sihanouk last week appealed for military aid from the United States, France and Australia "to save Cambodia from the yoke of the Khmer Rouge."

Prince Ranariddh confirmed Monday that the government had requested military support from western powers to fight the Khmer Rouge, a move the rebel faction has condemned as meddling in Cambodia's internal affairs.

The co-premiers were seeing off King Sihanouk who left for Beijing for medical treatment two weeks earlier than originally scheduled, citing his frustration at the failure of Cambodia's politicians to accept his peace plan.

The king Tuesday called on Khmer Rouge nominal leader Khieu Samphan and Hun Sen to bury the hatchet and proposed holding peace talks on May 27 at his residence in North Korea. But in an interview published Wednesday in the Cambodia Daily, the king had expressed pessimism at seeing the peace plan get off the ground, partly because he said Hun Sen was strongly opposed to "any flexibility vis a vis the Khmer Rouge."

The Khmer Rouge were responsible for the deaths of more than a million Cambodians during a four-year reign of terror that ended when Vietnamese troops ousted them from power in late 1978. The Khmer Rouge signed the 1991 Paris peace accords but refused to participate in the UN-sponsored general elections in 1991, and have continued to wage guerrilla warfare.

Ranariddh Addresses National Assembly 16 May

BK1705111094 Phnom Penh National Radio of Cambodia Network in Cambodian 0500 GMT 16 May 94

[Speech by First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh at the second session of the first National Assembly in Phnom Penh on 16 May—recorded]

[Text] Permit me to pay my respects to the samdech chairman of the National Assembly, their excellencies the vice chairmen, excellencies, and mesdames. First of all, I would like to express thanks on behalf of our Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC] for the support just given by their excellencies and mesdames to the RGC's plan to redress our national economy. Besides, the RGC promises to take for further study any well-founded suggestions you made to take concrete measures for their implementation.

As for the issue of our forests, which constitute one of the nation's resources, the RGC has given this maximum attention because not only does this issue affect the environment of the nation as a whole, but it also concerns the survival and future of Cambodia itself. The RGC has already decided to impose a moratorium on the export of both whole logs and processed logs from the Kingdom of Cambodia as of 1 April 1994.

The madame representing the commission concerned just now talked about the import-export imbalance, and there is also an imbalance in the national budget, which normally relies on tax income from our rice, rubber, and log export, especially during the times of Sangkum Reas Niyum. At the present, however, we are not in any position to export, say, our rice of which we even experience a serious shortage. As for our rubber, it can be exported but does not generate enough revenue. So, only our forests remain the main resource.

I would like, therefore, to remind the National Assembly that when UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] was here, it advised us to stop exporting our logs. Now, when the time has come for it to provide us with aid to fill our national coffer, when it heard that we would impose a log export moratorium, UNTAC tried to dissuade us from doing that. It said: Where would you get the money you need; why not sell your trees to get money for your budget?

Moreover, in his capacity as a member of the RGC, the state minister in charge of finance and economy [Sam Rangsai] supports the RGC's stance on the log export ban, while in his capacity as the minister in charge of finance and economy, he too has some reservations.

Thirdly, it should be noted that no new trees have been felled. Considerable amounts of already felled logs are lying in huge piles all over the country. If we do not take appropriate measures to deal with them, they can only rot and go to waste. This log export ban is prompted by the RGC's plan to divert the export of raw material into local production. This would generate, first, employment and, second, what you called the added values [two preceding words in French] to our natural resources. However, because of the shortage in capital investments, our internal markets cannot cope with the excessive quantities of the decomposing timber. For this reason, while the RGC continues to maintain the log export ban, all ministries concerned should survey the quantities of the already felled trees. Although the RGC continues to uphold the export ban, some exporters will always be permitted to export logs just as pointed out by His Excellency [H.E.] Son Chhai [MP, Siem Reap constituency].

Briefly, the RGC must face many major issues. The first issue is the question of protecting the nation's environment. The second issue is the question of national budget, which is experiencing a serious imbalance or the question of trade imbalance. Currently, in our state the national budget relies mainly on tax income. So, in this regard, we do not have any objection to H.E. Son Chhai's call to increase the severity of the punishment. However, this issue has already been dealt with by law. Yet, should our National Assembly deem it necessary to pursue this matter by adding that provision, the RGC has no objection. We merely ask that more appropriate wording be reached. This is because just saying "to consolidate the Forestry and Wildlife Department" and adding "by

meting out an urgent punishment" seems to be mismatched phrasing. Therefore, I ask the commission or H.E. [Planning Minister] Chea Chanto on behalf of the RGC to rearrange this sentence so that it includes the two conditions—to consolidate the department and increase the severity of punishment—to fight this crime. So, the RGC only asks for a rewording. Other than that, as a question of principle, the RGC has no objection.

H.E. Son Chhai also talked about the issue of specialists. I would like to inform all of you that the RGC has asked France and France has responded by sending their specialists to help the RGC compile a forestry and wildlife code to ensure a correct logging and reforestation policy that would conform with the nation's needs as well as the international norms and laws observed in other countries.

Once more I would like to inform you, excellencies and mesdames, that the RGC is paying maximum attention in line with the august idea of our revered king concerning the protection of our nation's natural resources and environment as part of our efforts to ensure the future of Cambodia, the future of our younger generations.

I take this opportunity, in my capacity as the first prime minister, to make some observations on the points just raised in its report by the commission.

First, on the assertion that the imbalance between production and consumption is a major problem that the entire national community must confront and solve and particularly the assertion that this imbalance is essentially caused by the insufficient means of production, the low level of technology, and the lack in human resource, I would like to inform you, excellencies and mesdames, that the RGC has a plan to ask the Education Ministry to change the aim of our national education. We must emulate post-World War II Germany, which needed labor to meet its national reconstruction needs. Therefore, the RGC will order the ministry concerned—namely, the Ministry of Education—to give priority to setting up vocational institutes. After finishing secondary education, our students should be diverted to receive at least three years of vocational training. If we fail to do that, if we continue to encourage our students to further their study in colleges or universities, we will surely have graduates in the forms of engineers, scholars, and doctors with substandard academic degrees. In real life, these graduates will be incapable of finding jobs although many investors have vacancies to fill. So, there will be a serious social problem in the future, and we will not be able to meet the demands of our nation. For this reason, the RGC once again asks the Education Ministry to effect a reorientation. Let us compare Germany and France. France at this moment is experiencing a serious unemployment problem whereas Germany is able to solve this same problem. So is Japan. Japan and Germany after the war took the correct steps in national education.

Based on this reasoning, the RGC will ask friendly countries who wish to help us to do so by creating as many institutes as possible for vocational training to meet the demands of the country and the needs of foreign investors. If we can provide only what they call low-skilled labor, Cambodia will remain poor forever while our neighbors will prosper. For this reason, we must start with producing the so-called low-skilled labor first and in the very short future we must have the ability to produce the so-called finished-skilled labor before reaching the state of labor category achieved by Singapore, which is called high-tech labor.

Nonetheless, we are able to provide the low-skilled labor now. Cambodia has very great potential. It has been said that the cheapest labor in Southeast Asia can be found in Indonesia, where the lowest wage is \$68 to \$70 a month. In Cambodia, our monthly wage is only \$35 to \$40. So, our labor is the cheapest. It is almost half of what is earned in Indonesia. For this reason, we must attract as many foreign investments as possible.

Regarding this investment issue raised by the commission, the RGC has already drafted a bill on investment in Cambodia. The RGC will submit this bill for cabinet approval and will submit it for the National Assembly's scrutiny and passage as soon as possible. I met with foreign diplomats and major would-be investors. They clearly told us that our current problem is not the Khmer Rouge. What stops them from coming in now is the absence in our country of a legal investment law. We have created distrust in them. So, they have proposed that we pass an investment law as soon as possible. We have already drafted such a bill, and some of those foreign experts to whom we have submitted it for examination have assured us that if such an investment law is promulgated, we will be the star of Asia [preceding three words in English]. We have drawn up this investment law with outside help. We have modeled it after the laws of many other countries. We also studied the stipulations of the IMF. We have made it better than others. If we do not do that, no one—no major investor—will come to invest in our country. They would rather go to Vietnam. For this reason, the National Assembly will have to study and pass this investment law as soon as possible. The investors have told us they are not afraid of the Khmer Rouge. If they have not yet come in it is because no investment law is in effect. Furthermore, they have told us that Cambodia is too slow in making decisions. Who is responsible for making these decisions? Some firms have submitted their applications as long as 18 months ago already. These are major firms such as Germany's Siemens and others. We keep holding endless discussions and debates on their applications. So, it is not the question of insecurity but the question of our lack of an investment law, lack of sufficient guarantees, and lack of ability to make prompt decisions. If we continue to be as deficient as we are now, no countries will have the patience to wait; they will surely take their investments elsewhere. This is a point that I would like to impress upon you.

Moreover, concerning this investment matter, sometimes it is smart to ignore a few insignificant mistakes committed by the investors. We must not hesitate to let major firms of international standing, those coming from big countries, proceed with their investments in our country even if to a small extent they affect our own interests. In the long run, Cambodia can only benefit from such companies. For example, if major firms from America, France, England, Japan, or Australia invest in our country we will not have to go around begging for their assistance. They will automatically help us because they will need to protect their interests in our kingdom. So, the interests will be mutual. This is a response to the question raised by Madame who just now said that we are lacking in human resources. I say we have the human resources. What we need to do is to transform this human resource, and make it meet the demands of the nation and of foreign investors. The RGC has the plan to redirect our national education from now on.

On the other hand, the madame representative's assertion that the lack of balance between import and export is noteworthy is most correct. In the past we had agriculture as our asset. Now the RGC is making great efforts in its water conservancy and irrigation policy, restoring ditches and canals, selecting good seeds, and providing farmers with fertilizers. However, if in dealing with agriculture we keep relying on traditional methods, we will not be able to achieve much. So, the new objective of the RGC is also reorientation. We are aiming our focus on industrial crops.

Talking of industrial crops, the first thing that comes to mind is rubber plantations that I and Samdech Hun Sen agreed the other day to set aside. I would like however to inform their excellencies and mesdames who are the representatives of our state and nation that the new objective of the RGC is to develop industrial crops. For example, in agriculture today's Vietnam has become a bigger coffee producing nation than the African nations. Why can Cambodia not do the same? What is the difference between the two sides of the political border? There is no natural border, of course. If the land is good for coffee in Vietnam it should be good for coffee in Cambodia, too.

Another crop is the oilseed, soy beans, or [word indistinct]. The competent departments are studying possibilities and several major firms have been prepared to invest in this field.

Yet another industrial crop is the castor-oil plant. We have a large market for this crop, in particular Thailand, which has just built a large refinery to extract this type of oil. However, Thailand has no land to grow this crop. It has contacted us and leased some 200,000 hectares of our land for the planting of this new crop.

So, in summary, we must change our objective and focus on industrial crops. If we continue to stick to our traditional crops, we will not be able to meet our demands both at the present and in the future. The RGC

plans to build an assembly plant for tractors, such as Massey-Fergusson. There are many regions like the plains around the Tonle Sap lake where during the Sangkum Reas Niyum era there were as many as 200 tractors engaged in the cultivating the floating rice. Now there are only about 60 to 70 tractors for this purpose. The local farmers have appealed for somebody to import additional tractors. I would like to inform you that we are going to borrow money and use it to assemble or produce these tractors for sale to the people at low prices so that they can cultivate the 30,000 hectares which even without the use of fertilizers yield from 2.5 to 3 metric tons per hectare. This is a great yield, and it is something that the kingdom can do and will do in the near future.

The imbalance of our national budget, as I said before, results from the fact that our national budget relies on two main sources of incomes: taxes and foreign aid. H.E. Chea Chanto said just now that foreign countries cannot help us forever, and we cannot depend entirely on our tax incomes. However, as I have just informed you, there are means to beef up our national budget. Up to this point, the RGC has been able to balance the budget in terms of service although in terms of construction we still incur a budget imbalance. This, however, should be seen as an achievement by the RGC.

Besides, it was proposed to increase the national product from 2.5 percent to 8 percent in 1994 if possible. Normally, we need a bigger growth because ours is a newly developing country. A growth of 7 or 8 percent is seen as a natural development in Southeast Asia. Thailand's growth remains at 9 percent. In 1993 we recorded a 7-percent growth. This year—H.E. Sam Rangsi is here to confirm it—maybe we will be able to reach 8-percent growth. Considering the needs of our nation, an 8-percent growth is insufficient, and we need much more than that. However, under the current circumstances, we cannot do better than that. But this 8-percent rate is the average growth rate of countries in our Southeast Asia.

The RGC is paying attention to the raising of silk worms. The Agriculture Ministry is closely following development in this area because presently we are importing silk from foreign countries. However, I have asked our people why they did not grow mulberry trees. They said there was no need to plant these mulberry trees to raise silk worms because it was much more convenient and much cheaper to buy silk from abroad. This was a problem. We have decided that we must grow mulberry trees to raise silk worms, but the weavers insisted that they did not need to plant them because it was cheaper and faster to buy silk from Vietnam and, to top it, this silk from Vietnam was of better quality. However, we must solve this problem for the people.

Now let us talk about industry, trade, and tourism. Concerning the issue of factories, I would like to inform you that the RGC has a plan to privatize the nation's industrial enterprises. However, there are a few national enterprises that are considered to be strategic. The RGC cannot privatize all our state industrial enterprises. A

few will remain under the control of the RGC because they are regarded as strategic.

Concerning the private factories, I would like to inform you of this: Some Japanese wish to rent our state-owned factories, but they have asked the RGC to seal off the border and stop the smuggling of similar goods from abroad. The Japanese has asked us to set up a customs wall [two preceding words repeated in English]. This is because should they invest in our country and produce consumer goods for local consumption and export, especially for local consumption, and should we be unable to seal off our border, the factories in the country would not be able to compete with the same goods, the same products that can be sold at much lower prices because of mass production and higher technology. As a result, our factories will be forced to close their doors one after another.

There is also the issue of duties and profit taxes. We are not resorting to a protectionist policy, but we have to find a way to enable the local factories to compete with the same products imported from abroad. Moreover, the imported products that outsell our local products are made abroad. What we need—even if we make only a small profit—is the employment opportunities for our people. This should be a priority. Without such opportunities, our people will become poorer and poorer. Consequently, the RGC would like to make the following plea to you, excellencies and mesdames: If you feel that we are imposing too low taxes, you should realize that the job opportunities given to the unemployed populace should more than compensate for the relatively small incomes into the national coffer. Employment is a priority to be immediately solved otherwise we will be confronted with a serious social problem in Cambodia in the very near future.

Furthermore, there is the issue of electric supply. Not only are we experiencing a massive power shortage but the people of Cambodia are paying a much higher price for their electricity. Ours is not one time but five times higher than the electricity sold anywhere else in the world. So, despite the cheap labor, products made in our country remain costly because our electricity is very expensive. For this reason, the RGC has another goal. We will not just set up power plants, but our strategy is that our electricity will rely on water, on hydroelectric sources, because we have so many possibilities in this area and many international organizations, countries, and companies are prepared to help us in this field. Without speaking of dams on the Mekong River, just the dams to be built on other rivers throughout the country would produce 17,000 megawatts. This production far exceeds the needs in our kingdom.

Another area that we should talk about—which madame the representative has raised just now—is tourism. This is a major issue, an important issue. Almost every day the RGC is studying ways to exploit tourism. However, it is not possible to deal with tourism without taking into consideration the question of security as a whole. The

issue of prices in our country must also be tackled. Our hotels and restaurants are very expensive compared to those in our neighboring countries. The RGC therefore has a plan to help reduce to the maximum capital necessary in this vital field of tourism. The RGC, despite some shortcomings, is working to restore not only the airport in Siem Reap but also the Pochentong airport. Our Pochentong airport is incapable of taking in large-bodied aircraft of the Boeing-747 type. This weakness has led many potential tourists to go to neighboring countries instead. These neighboring countries are making profit at the expense of all of us Cambodians. For this reason, the RGC has an urgent plan to build a new runway at the same Pochentong site. This new runway will have the international standard length of 3,600 meters. Its construction will be finished within two to two and a half years and it will allow Boeing-747 planes to land. Otherwise, there would be no end to the so-called bottleneck [preceding word in French]. The RGC also has a plan to build another terminal [preceding word in French] to be completed within two to two and a half years at Pochentong.

Concerning the issue of the airport in Siem Reap just raised by the commission, I would like to say that we will not permit large aircraft like the Boeing-737's or Airbus-300's to land on the Siem Reap runway although this runway is capable of accommodating these planes. This is because we fear that the landing tremor might shake up and damage our ancient temples, such as Angkor Wat. The RGC therefore has decided not to permit large jet aircraft to land at the Siem Reap airport, but we are going to restore this Siem Reap airport, and in the future we will find means to build another airport some 30 to 40 km away from Siem Reap city. In the meantime we must permit small propeller-driven planes to shuttle between Phnom Penh and Siem Reap.

In this field of tourism, the RGC has a plan to open up Sihanoukville and turn it into Asia's largest tourist site if possible in the future. This is because we have many more conditions favorable to us to do just that than any other country. The RGC has also already decided to build another international airport in Sihanoukville. All of that, in principle, is good enough to bring about success in the tourist field.

Briefly, we accept all the proposals or observations of the commission concerning the restoration of roads as a priority task. As you know, National Routes 12, 13, 18, 19, and so on are receiving close attention from the RGC. In the name of the RGC, we have just visited Koh Kong, Ratanakiri, and Mondolkiri and we talked about this priority issue there. However, we currently lack the budgetary funds, and these routes need considerable funds. Nevertheless, the RGC will do its best to restore them at all costs, especially the routes linking Phnom Penh with the eastern and western regions of the country. This is because of the concept that development without roads is not possible. In two or three provinces, such as Mondolkiri, Ratanakiri, and Stung Treng, there are huge natural resources, and these provinces are very

lightly populated. Mondolkiri's population is 20,000 and Ratanakiri's is 60,000. Several big firms plan to invest in our country in growing industrial crops. So, this is a great guarantee for the future of our kingdom. What the RGC asks for is merely this: to a number of youths who seem to be restive over the issues of security, or the lack of it, and development, I would like to take this opportunity to remind them that before the elections H.E. Lee Kwan Yew, former prime minister of Singapore, told our august and most revered king father that after the war comes to an end and when there is 100 percent security Cambodia will need at least 10 more years just to become equal to what it was under Sangkum Reas Niyum.

Mind you, we will need 10 years not to catch up with Singapore but just to be as good as when we were under Sangkum Reas Niyum. The RGC is now only eight months old. Therefore, you should not pass judgment on us for what we have done in only eight months. That is not 10 years with total security. We are just eight months old. Therefore, I ask the respected National Assembly to kindly allow the RGC to continue working with the limited resources at its disposal to lead the nation for a little while longer. Please consider my request. Thank you.

Assembly Passes 1995-94 Development Plan

*BK1705121194 Phnom Penh AKP in French 1027
GMT 17 May 94*

[Text] Phnom Penh 17 May (AKP)—The second session of Cambodia's first National Assembly was held yesterday morning, 16 May, in the presence of Samdech Chea Sim, chairman of the National Assembly, and his two vice chairmen, Mr. Loy Simchheang and Mr. Son Soubert.

One hundred of the 120 MP's attended. Cambodia's first and second prime ministers, Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Samdech Hun Sen, were also present.

During this meeting the MP's debated the agenda, which contained the bill on the development of the economy and social actions for 1994-95; the nomination of Generals Sin Song and Kieng Vang to the posts of secretaries of of for the interior; and the nomination of new MP's replacing the outgoing MP's.

During yesterday's debates, the National Assembly passed the bill on the development of the economy and social actions. The Cambodian National Assembly will resume its work tomorrow, 18 May.

Government Urged 'To Firm Up' Legitimate Authority

*BK1805091794 Phnom Penh REAKSMEI
KAMPUCHEA in Cambodian 18 May 94 pp 1, 2*

[Editorial by Vithun: "It Is Time for the Government To Firm Up Its Legitimate Authority"]

[Text] In light of the latest developments, it is apparently time for the royal government to firm up its legitimate authority to stimulate the people's confidence; otherwise, it will face scores of complicated problems and even difficulties in its existence.

Everyone knows that so far, there has been a tendency seemingly to tie up the government's limbs, preventing it from doing anything while the Khmer Rouge continues its violation and destruction against innocent people.

Analysts of the Cambodian situation say that the government has suffered a serious defeat in its psychological warfare. When it counterattacks the Khmer Rouge in the wake of the latter's onslaught, the government instead has been accused of being a warmonger. It is certain that defeat in the psychological war can lead the government to other failures. It is also certain that only after the government suffers a real defeat will the people realize that they, themselves, are the real losers; however, it then will be too late. This being the case, it is a must for the government to change this situation urgently by making the people clearly understand that the government's victory is also the victory of each of them.

It is ironic that the Khmer Rouge and its supporters, who oppose the government, are able to live in government-controlled regions throughout the country. Nevertheless, the Khmer Rouge-held areas are completely safe—there are neither Khmer Rouge opponents nor demonstrations calling for an end to the nonsensical Khmer Rouge war. In view of this, the government is facing two problems, namely the problem of the Khmer Rouge outside and the problem of the Khmer Rouge inside.

It is expected that in "the step toward reinforcing its legitimate authority," the government will begin to crack down on corruption which is most abhorrent to the people in general. Along with this, it should restrengthen its police, army, guards, and state authorities in order to effectively ensure security, order, and safety in society and to circumvent the Khmer Rouge's sabotage activities. This is part of the earnest request of the people.

Another issue of life and death is that if it does not want to dissolve itself, the government, with the massive strength of the two major political parties, should review the alliance between the two parties by taking into consideration the nation's interests above all.

It is perfectly rational that the government should firm up its legitimate authority at a time when the Khmer Rouge is consolidating its clout against the law. Somehow, what is most important is that the government should be in a quest for the people's support as well.

Ranariddh Denies Alleged KR Capture of Mongkolborei

BK1705120194 Phnom Penh AKP in French 1024 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Phnom Penh 17 May (AKP)—Prince Krompreah Norodom Ranariddh, first prime minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, on Monday, 16 May, rejected a report alleging that the Khmer Rouge [KR] had taken control of Mongkolborei, a town located in northwestern Cambodia.

During a conversation with journalists following the inauguration of an artificial limb-making center in Phnom Penh, the prince indicated that the guerrillas had destroyed a bridge and an administrative office of Mongkolborei District, but it was just a "lightning" operation.

The radio of the Khmer Rouge affirmed that three columns of guerrillas had attacked government positions on 15 May near the Mongkolborei bridge in the town's market and along the river south of the town on National Route 5.

According to the radio, the "liberation" of Mongkolborei enables the Khmer Rouge to control the transport and communications between Battambang and Sisophon and between Sisophon and Poipet.

The radio also affirmed that on 14 May the guerrillas had occupied Sangkum Thmei District in Preah Vihear Province, north of Mongkolborei.

SRV Border Talks Called Ploy To Legitimize Land Seizure

BK1805074494 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 May 94

[Station editorial: "Why Did the Hanoi Communist Vietnamese Blatantly Declare That They Want To Negotiate the Problem of Cambodian-Vietnamese Border with Their Lackey, the Two-Headed Government? This Is To Legitimize Their Actions of Cutting Off and Turning Tens of Thousands of Square Kilometers of Cambodian Territory Into Their Territory Between 1979 and 1990"]

[Text] It should be recalled that the Cambodian-Vietnamese border, like those with Cambodia's other neighbors, has been legally defined in accordance with international law. The 1/100,000 map drawn between 1933 and 1953 established Cambodia's border and territorial integrity that can be in no way subject to violation. Between 1963 and 1969, the border was internationally recognized. Nguyen Huu Tho, chairman of the South Vietnam Liberation Front, and Pham Van Dong, SRV prime minister, issued statements on 31 May 1967 and 3 March 1967 declaring their solemn recognition of Cambodia's territorial integrity within its boundary defined by the 1/100,000 map. That being the case and

according to international law, the communist Vietnamese have no right whatsoever to propose talks to review the Cambodian-Vietnamese border issue. They can never review it. They have to abide by international law, observe the border between Cambodia and Vietnam, and respect Cambodia's territorial integrity of land and sea.

The 23 October 1991 Paris agreement clearly reminded Vietnam and other countries of their duty and commitment to respect territorial integrity. The accord unambiguously defined that all agreements or treaties that affect Cambodia's territorial integrity and sovereignty should be considered null and void. So now, why has the communist Vietnamese called for talks on the Cambodian-Vietnamese border issue with the two heads [Rana-riddh and Hun Sen]? The communist Vietnamese's goal is to legitimize the tens of thousands of square kilometers of Cambodia's land and maritime territories that they have cut off and occupied between 1979 and 1990 in accordance with treaties and agreements they concluded with their lackey puppets. Should they be able to legitimize their actions of cutting off and occupying part of the Cambodian territory, then they will continue this stratagem to swallow and incorporate Cambodia into the late Ho Chi Minh's federation in a legal fashion and through a demographic war. Vietnam has employed all manner of maneuvers to achieve its strategy of turning Cambodia into a second Kampuchea Kraom.

The Cambodian nation and people are fully entitled to declare all agreements and treaties the traitorous communist Vietnamese puppets concluded with the communist Vietnamese between 1979 and 1990 as null and void. They earnestly demand that the communist Vietnamese return all the land and maritime territories they have cut off and occupied to Cambodia.

Indonesia

Reportage on E. Timor Issue Continues

'Wave of Arrests' Reported

LD1705200494 Lisbon Radio Renascenca in Portuguese to Europe 1900 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] There was a wave of arrests in East Timor on the eve of the meeting between [Portuguese Foreign Minister] Durao Barroso and [Indonesian Foreign Minister] Ali Alatas. Ten East Timorese were arrested early this month by the Indonesian Army, and were accused of attempting to organize a demonstration for 6 May, the date of the meeting between the foreign ministers. A report by the Fretilin says that some of those arrested are being tortured and beaten up.

Manila Urged To Cancel Talks

BK1805104894 Jakarta Radio Republik Indonesia Network in Indonesian 0600 GMT 18 May 94

[From the press review]

[Text] KOMPAS writes that Indonesia has in fact grounds to voice its objection to the Philippines over an Asia-Pacific conference on East Timor scheduled to be held at a university in Manila on 31 May. The Indonesian Government, which learned of the planned conference last October, subsequently voiced its objection. The objection was repeated in November 1993 and March 1994. According to Foreign Minister Ali Alatas, the objection stems from the fact that the conference organizers as well as the invitees, including Ramos Horta [a leader of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor or Fretilin] and his friends have a political goal, that is to mobilize public opinion to question the incorporation of East Timor into the Republic of Indonesia. Despite our doubts over their possible success in changing the current status of East Timor, the conference could in any way affect the efforts of Indonesia, the United Nations, and Portugal to settle comprehensively the East Timor issue. Accordingly, the Philippine Government should immediately move to cancel the planned conference because there could be a thunderbolt in the broad daylight in Indonesian-Philippine relations if the conference is held.

Meanwhile, the daily ANGKATAN BERSENJATA says that the conference can be categorized as a forum of discussions on human rights rather than an academic one by whatever standards. Based on pamphlets circulated by the conference organizers, the delegates will discuss ways of achieving the independence of East Timor—a political goal. Accordingly, the Indonesian Government and people hope that Philippine President Fidel Ramos will change his stand over the extremely sensitive issue that may undermine Indonesian-Philippine relations.

SUARA KARYA stresses that Indonesia understands the dilemma faced by the Philippines. For the sake of close bilateral relations, the Philippine Government, however, may in any way prevent Philippine territory from being used as a base by Fretilin and its supporters to launch anti-Indonesian campaigns. As a comparison, the Indonesian Government will, for example, never allow Indonesian territory to be used as a base by the Moros [Moro National Liberation Front] to conduct anti-Philippine activities. The daily believes that as a preliminary step, the Philippine Government may deny entry to Fretilin leaders who want to attend the conference.

Former Minister Released After Prison Term

BK1805030394 Jakarta REPUBLIKA in Indonesian 7 May 94 p 1

[Text] Jakarta, REPUBLIKA—H.M. Sanusi, who was jailed for subversion, was released from the Cipinang Correction Center in Jakarta on Friday. His release followed the earlier release of A.M. Fatwa, Abdul Qadir Jaelani, Rahmat Basuki, and a number of other political detainees. Sanusi was released in a very simple and quiet

ceremony at 1045 West Indonesian Standard Time yesterday in contrast to the earlier release of a number of his friends. "I am very happy," Sanusi told REPUBLIKA last night.

Present during the ceremony yesterday were Alamsyah Bur, head of the Jakarta Regional Office of the Department of Justice; Suharto, head of the Cipinang Correction Center; his five sons and six grandchildren, and his friends Dr. Anwar Harjono and A.M. Fatwa. Sanusi himself learned of his imminent release on Thursday morning. "I intentionally did not inform my friends about it," he said.

Sanusi had undergone the resocialization process since November 1993. He was sentenced to 19 years in prison by the Central Jakarta District Court in 1985 for allegedly masterminding the explosion of a number of Bank Central Asia offices. He was later sentenced in the same year to 20 years for alleged involvement in the explosion of the Borobudur Temple. The second verdict was, however, annulled by the Supreme Court. He was released conditionally on Friday after serving two-thirds [as published] of his jail term.

Having been in prison for almost 10 years, the man, who was born in Klaten on 28 November 1920, however, spoke enthusiastically. He was even not reluctant to talk about his life. "Let's talk about politics," said Sanusi when asked about the technical aspects of his release. The former industry minister of the Republic of Indonesia in the Ampera Cabinet from 1966 to 1968 said that he would again be involved in social and mass activities after performing a hajj pilgrimage. "I have not changed," he said enthusiastically.

Sanusi, who was an official of the Muhammadiyah [an Islamic sociocultural and educational organization] Central Executive Board from 1965 to 1985, said that he would strive to implement three main programs. First, he will strive for the democratization process in Indonesia. According to him, conglomeration, corruption, and the like stem from the stalled democratic development in Indonesia. In this regard, Sanusi vowed to remain critical of government policies. "But, I remain constructive," he continued. He claimed to have prepared a number of concepts to cope with these problems.

Government To Register All Stateless Chinese

BK1805103294 Jakarta THE JAKARTA POST in English 7 May 94 p 1

[Text] Jakarta (JP)—The Jakarta municipal administration is going to register all stateless Chinese living in the city starting from May 6, in order to get accurate data on the group and to settle the issue of their status once and for all.

"Thus far there has never been an efficient, comprehensive registration of the group. Each agency in the city administration has its own records, which conflict with each other. That's why the registration is being done",

Idrus, the deputy governor in charge of administration affairs, announced yesterday.

Nurhadi Judi, director of the Office for Developing National Unity at the Ministry of Home Affairs, who was also at the press conference, said the registration is in adherence to the memorandum of understanding signed by Indonesia and the People's Republic of China in 1992. The memorandum concerned the ethnic Chinese living in Indonesia without clear citizenship status.

"There are many Chinese here who are registered as stateless residents. They are not recorded as Indonesians because they haven't been naturalized yet. Moreover, they have no passport to prove that they hold Chinese citizenship," Nurhadi said.

According to the records at the Jakarta Population Affairs Office, around 27,590 stateless people of Chinese descent live in the capital.

"I believe the actual number is much higher than the figure we have recorded," Idrus said.

Idrus said the stateless Chinese to be registered are those who have lived here for one generation but have not yet been naturalized, as well as illegal immigrants.

Chinese residents classified as "ex-PP 10/1959" also will be asked to register. The PP 10/1959 is governmental regulation No. 10 of 1959 concerning the obligation of all ethnic Chinese in Indonesia to choose either Chinese or Indonesian citizenship.

The term "ex-PP 10/1959" was coined to refer to those who opted for Chinese citizenship but remained in the archipelago into the mid 1960s. The Indonesian government faced difficulty sending them back to China following the break in diplomatic ties between the two countries after the abortive communist-led coup in 1965.

Idrus said the upcoming registration was based on a 1993 instruction from the Ministry of Home Affairs which applied nationwide, except in East Timor, where all residents automatically became Indonesian citizen in 1976.

Nine provinces nationwide, North Sumatera, Riau, Jambi South Sumatera, West Java Central Java, East Java, East Kalimantan and South Sulawesi, have carried out similar registration drives.

In Jakarta, the provincial secretary, Harun Al Rasyid serves as chairman of the registration team.

"Everyone wanting to register should come in person," Idrus said. The registration will be done at district offices.

After being registered each person, who qualifies, can apply for Indonesian citizenship, while the rest will be given documents to announce their foreign citizenship.

For naturalization, each person has to have more than a dozen documents, including a birth certificate, a document certifying loyalty to the nation and good conduct papers, which may cost each individual a total of Rp [Rupiah] 647,000 (US\$302.30).

Laos

Radio Cites U.S. Adviser on MIA Searches

BK1705135294 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] According to (William Cadory), an assistant adviser to the party in charge of searching for the remains of U.S. soldiers missing during the war, the mission to look for the remains of 560 U.S. MIA's in Laos has been continuing since 1985. So far, 38 excavations have been carried out to identify 175 cases of U.S. MIA's. The current one, the 39th, is being carried out in Houa Phan Province. To date, 55 sets of remains of U.S. MIA's have been excavated and identified. The next and last excavation mission for the 1993-94 fiscal year will be carried out in Xieng Khouang Province.

Defense Minister's Activities in PRC, DPRK Noted

BK1805024894 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1230 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpts] At the invitation of Comrade Lieutenant General Chi Haotian, PRC national defense minister, and Comrade Marshal O Chin-u, DPRK minister of the people's armed forces, a high-level military delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] headed by Comrade Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason, paid visits to the two countries respectively beginning 5 May.

On 15 May, Comrade Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason and our high-level military delegation returned to Vientiane. [passage omitted]

During its 10-day official visits, the LPDR military delegation visited many production establishments and military garrisons.

During the visit to the PRC from 5 to 9 May, the comrade LPDR national defense minister and his entourage met with Comrade Lt. Gen. Chi Haotian, PRC national defense minister, and his party. They exchanged views and informed one another about certain issues of mutual interest. The two sides also discussed the further strengthening of solidarity, friendship, and relations between the Armed Forces of the two countries in the interests of the two peoples who have maintained traditional relations and solidarity since ancient times. The LPDR military delegation laid a wreath at the Mao Zedong mausoleum, visited the high technology development area of Chengdu in Sichuan Province—PRC's fourth-ranked high technology development region.

Everywhere the comrade LPDR national defense minister and the party went, they were warmly and respectably welcomed by officers and soldiers of the military installations concerned. The visit to the PRC by the high-ranking LPDR military delegation served to further strengthen the spirit of goodwill, friendship, and solidarity between the Lao and Chinese Armed Forces.

In the DPRK visit from 9 to 14 May, the high-level Lao military delegation headed by Comrade Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason met with the high-level DPRK military delegation headed by Vice Marshal (Che Kuang), chief of staff and acting minister of the people's armed forces of the DPRK. The two sides informed each other on issues of mutual interest on the basis of solidarity, friendship, and mutual understanding. The Lao military delegation also visited the Museum of Three Revolutionaries and the Museum of the National Liberation Struggle, laid a wreath at the Monument of Unknown Soldiers, a bouquet of flowers at the Monument of Victory, visited (Man Yongbo) village—the birthplace of Comrade President Kim Il-song, great leader of the Korean people. They also attended an acrobatics show performed by the DPRK Armed Forces, visited the Pyongyang youth palace, toured the People's Great Library, and visited the chuche monument symbolizing the chuche policy outlined by President Kim Il-song, great leader of the Korean people, which has been applied by the Korean people in the building of the DPRK-style socialism. In addition, the delegation also visited a number of military installations. Everywhere Comrade Lt. Gen. Choummali Sai-gnason and the party visited, they were warmly and honorably welcomed by the hosts.

The first visit to the DPRK by the high-level Lao military delegation in the name of the Lao People's Army has enabled us to understand the reality of the all-around growth and strength of the DPRK built in accordance with the chuche policy outlined by the Korean people's Great Leader Comrade President Kim Il-song and Beloved Leader Comrade Kim Chong-il. It also served to further strengthen the relations of friendship and solidarity between the Lao and Korean people's armed forces.

Justice Minister Leaves for PRC Visit

BK1305111594 Vientiane KPL in English 0916 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Vientiane, May 13 (KPL)—Justice Minister Kham-ouan Boupha and his party yesterday left here for an official visit to the People's Republic of China at an invitation from the Chinese Ministry of Justice.

During the one-week visit, the Lao delegation was scheduled to have talks with its Chinese counterpart to discuss and share experience in legal matters, justice, and other issues of interests.

Seeing the delegation off at Wattai airport were Deputy Justice Minister Somlit Chanthachak, and Chinese Ambassador Li Jiazhong, among others.

Cambodian Trade Minister Begins Friendship Visit

Meets With Prime Minister

BK1305142594 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Yesterday evening at the Prime Minister's Office, His Excellency [H.E.] Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon received a courtesy call from H.E. Va Huot, minister of trade of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on his friendship visit to Laos from 10 to 13 May. The conversation between the host and the guest proceeded in an atmosphere of intimate friendship. H.E. Va Huot informed H.E. Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon about the successful talks between the Lao and Cambodian trade ministry delegations. The Cambodian visitor expressed profound thanks to H.E. the prime minister for according him a warm welcome.

On his part, H.E. Khamtai Siphandon hailed and highly assessed the visit to Laos by the delegation of the Trade Ministry of the Kingdom of the Cambodia, noting that it has positively contributed to further strengthening and multiplying the time-honored traditional bilateral ties of friendship and cooperation of good neighborliness.

Departs After Signing Trade Pact

BK1305142394 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Beginning this year, Laos and the Kingdom of Cambodia will restore and broaden trade ties and cooperation on the basis of the implementation of the renovation policies of each country and for mutual benefit. This principle has been stipulated in the Agreement on Trade Cooperation between Laos and Cambodia, signed at Lan Xang hotel, Vientiane, on the evening of 12 May by His Excellency [H.E.] Sompadit Volasan, minister of trade of Laos, and Va Huot, minister of trade of the Kingdom of Cambodia, during the latter's visit to Laos.

The agreement, which was signed in the spirit of the Agreement on Economic, Scientific, Technical, and Cultural Cooperation reached by Laos and the Kingdom of Cambodia in Phnom Penh on 10 November 1993, is aimed at further strengthening the long-standing traditional relations of friendship, solidarity, and cooperation between the governments and peoples. The two sides pledged to establish certain principles to govern the scope of trade cooperation. At the same time, they expressed their readiness to provide special conveniences to facilitate cross-border trade. They also pledged to exchange trade information and data as well as technical expertise and to study various issues relating

to the policy of trade cooperation between the two countries both in the present and in the immediate future.

The delegation from the Trade Ministry of the Kingdom of Cambodia left Vientiane for Phnom Penh this morning after a three-day visit.

Memorandum Signed with Thai Amity Group

BK1605104494 Vientiane KPL in English 0937 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Vientiane, May 14 (KPL)—Khamphai Boupha, president of the Lao-Thai Friendship Association, yesterday signed with Asa Sarasin, president of the Thai-Lao Friendship Association, a memorandum of understanding.

The memorandum provides that both sides have satisfaction over the current state of the relations between the governments and peoples of the two countries that have developed to a new level. The friendship associations, established to meet the desire of the two peoples, is an independent organisation with objectives to promote and preserve the relations of friendship and kinship in line with the policy and law of each country.

The two friendship associations will promote cooperation between the two countries so that their peoples enjoy mutual contact and assistance. They agreed to organise traditional festivals and exchanges of experience and skills seen as appropriate, and to hold their plenary meeting once a year to review their activities and to smooth their coordination. The sides agreed to set up their respective coordination committees headed by the secretary of each association.

During its two-day visit, the Thai-Lao Friendship Association's delegation called on Prime Minister Khamtai Siphandon, Prime Minister's Office Minister Phao Bounnaphon, Industry and Handicraft Minister Soulivong Dalavong. It also held talks with its Lao counterpart.

SRV Provincial Delegation Visits Province

BK1805023694 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] On 16 May, a delegation of SRV's Son La Province, headed by Comrade Do Van An, secretary of the Son La provincial party committee, paid a visit to Houa Phan Province. The delegation was welcomed by Comrade Somphan Phengkhammi, secretary of the Houa Phan provincial party committee, and some members of the provincial administrative committee at the municipality office of Sam Neua District.

During the five-day scheduled visit, the delegations of the two provinces will consult and exchange views on their special relations of friendship and allround cooperation in the past as well as the direction of their future cooperation plans. They will also sign a memorandum of

cooperation in various fields for the immediate future. In addition, the SRV provincial delegation will visit some production establishments in the province.

A Son La provincial art troupe is also accompanying the delegation to present performances in some localities in the province.

Khamtai Siphandon Addresses Youth Congress Opening

BK1605105994 Vientiane KPL in English 0924 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] Vientiane, May 14 (KPL)—[Passage omitted] Mr. Khamtai Siphandon's address at the inaugural session of the third congress of the LPRYU [Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union] yesterday morning emphasized the youth organization's new challenge in fulfilling the comprehensive policy of renovation of the party and state, in the safeguarding of the nation's independence and territorial integrity while improving the livelihood and the well-being of the people in the country.

The president of the LPRP CC [Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee] said that the youth ought to have revolutionary ideals in life, and have the needs and energy to put into deeds their ideals for the benefits of the society. They ought to have knowledge, skills in addition to correct revolutionary moral and conducts in the execution of the public tasks in all sectors. The youths should be the leading task forces at all fronts including those involved in anticorruption, embezzlement, illegal transactions, tax collection, and other negative manifestations in the society. He said that the youth ought to translate their slogan "wherever there is difficulty, the youth will handle; wherever there is hardship, the youth will overcome; when the nation calls, the youth will be present" into deeds in their integrated endeavours for national construction from now till 2000. They must make optimal use of the natural resources of the country in a sustainable manner so that the people in the nation can benefit from the wealth of the nation, providing each and everyone clothes and food so that the people's living standard can be stabilised and improved.

Mr. Khamtai Siphandon said that the issue of expanding membership of the LPRYU was an important task that the Lao youth organization needed to give special attention to and together with the party organization this issue needed to be handled. On the one hand, the organization of the youth needed to be streamlined for work efficiency, and along with this, there ought to be a programme for educating the organization's members and non-members alike so that they would understand and appreciate the party and state's policies and the state's laws.

Congress 'Successfully' Closed 14 May

BK1405140194 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 14 May 94

[Text] After meeting in earnest for 2 days, this afternoon at the Conference Hall of the National Assembly, the third nationwide congress of representatives of Lao youths was successfully adjourned.

Attending the closing ceremony were Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and prime minister; Saman Vi-gnaket, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and chairman of the National Assembly; Maichantan Sengmani, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and chief of the LPRP CC's Party-State Control and Inspection Board; Thongsing Thammavong, Political Bureau member of the LPRP and chief of the LPRP CC's Organization Board; Udom Khatthi-gna, Political Bureau member of the LPRP CC and in charge of mass organizational affairs; ministers and deputy ministers; members of the National Assembly; representatives of the mass organizations; and many invited guests.

During the 2-day congress, delegates to the congress heard a political report on the achievements and victories in various fields recorded by the multiethnic Lao youths throughout the country in recent years and a program of action which will be implemented in the immediate future. The documents were presented to congress by Khamman Sounvileut, member of the LPRP CC and second secretary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Executive Committee [LPRYU EC]. The meeting also heard an address by Khamtai Siphandon, chairman of the LPRP CC and prime minister.

The meeting unanimously endorsed the LPRYU's amended statute and heard views expressed by delegates of youths from many ministries and provinces, who discussed and pointed out the achievements and victories in various fields recorded by members of the LPRYU in each organization, office, and province in recent years as well as certain weak points, remaining problems, and the direction for development and rectification in the immediate future. Certain conditions were also discussed at the meeting, aimed at rectifying the situation to conform to the new period of revolution in our country.

The meeting voted to elect a new executive committee for the LPRYU, comprising 31 members with Comrade Venhthong Louangvilai as first secretary of the LPRYU EC. Members of the 3d LPRYU EC are as follows: 1. Venhthong Louangvilai
2. Bounpon Boutsanavong
3. Phomsa-ne Gnouttitham
4. Phetsakon Louang-aphai
5. Sithong Thongkeo
6. Khamphan Sitthidampha
7. Lieutenant Colonel Souban Ounchampa
8. Singkham Phommalat

9. Somchan Phouangbaikham
 10. Somlit Peupkeo
 11. Boualai Phimmasan
 12. Somkhuan Inthalangsi
 13. Viangthong Inthaseng
 14. Seng-aloun Ounhavong
 15. Thongkhoun Amphengphai
 16. Mai Latanabounheuang
 17. Sivanson Vongsavat
 18. Ounla Vongphachan
 19. Chanpheng Keutkong
 20. Ampha Phommavong
 21. Bounseun Sengmani
 22. Ouphong Phanthavong
 23. Khamson Sounvileut
 24. Soukan Phongsavat
 25. Khamko Douan-alai
 26. Siphouk Vongphakdi
 27. Dr. Mrs. Bounpasit Philavong
 28. Khamphan Phomphakdi
 29. Yangli Taliya
 30. Somsouk Souksavat
 31. Boun-ing Vangmanivan
- The meeting elected Ven-thong Louangvilai as first secretary of the 3d LPRYU CC, Bounpon Boutsanavong and Phomsa-ne Gnout-titham as deputy secretaries, and Phetsakon Louang-aphaias chairman of the state-party inspection committee of the 3d LPRYU EC.

After that the meeting approved the resolution adopted at the congress and endorsed the political report and other resolutions adopted at the congress. At the end of the meeting, Khamman Sounvileut delivered a speech closing the congress.

Philippines

Concern Expressed Over PRC Role in Piracy

BK1805091394 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 16 May 94 p 3

[Text] Foreign affairs officials have expressed concern over reports that police and naval officials from the People's Republic of China have been involved in half of nearly 100 cases of piracy in the South China Sea, an area where various states in the region, including the Philippines, have conflicting territorial claims.

Official reports reaching the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA] disclosed information from the Hong Kong Government that 47 out of 98 "attacks on shipping" during the past 18 months have been traced to Chinese officials.

The information was formally relayed by the Hong Kong Marine Department to Admiral Thimio Mitropoulos, chairman of the United Nations International Maritime Organization [IMO] Safety Committee.

The Hong Kong confidential papers pointing to China as being responsible for the attacks were compiled from

distress messages picked up by Hong Kong's Rescue Coordination Center since 1992, the report to the DFA said.

"About 47 attacks have clearly pointed to Chinese officials' involvement, identifying police, customs, naval, and army officers, right down to serial numbers of patrol vessels," the report added.

Hong Kong had wanted to expose China's alleged involvement in piracy in the South China Sea to international attention during Mitropoulos' recent visit to the crown colony.

But the report noted that information on piracy cases involving China was deleted from an earlier report by Hong Kong to the Mitropoulos committee, with Hong Kong's foreign office and security branch intervening to ensure that the marine department did not mention any Chinese involvement.

Great Britain and its colony, Hong Kong, along with China, are members of the UN International Maritime Committee.

Foreign affairs officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that countries with overlapping claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, have chosen "not to react" to the report, since this may be a source of instability in the region.

"The Philippine Government, on the other hand, would prefer to have more proof to determine whether the attacks were carried out by Chinese officials or by renegade Chinese," they said.

The sources noted that although the acts of piracy occurred outside the Philippines' sea-lanes in the South China Sea, China's illegal activities may "disturb the equilibrium" in the region.

They added, major shipping nations, such as Japan, Norway, Greece, and other countries in Europe, through big fleet owners, should take the initiative in asking the IMO to "take appropriate action" against China.

The Philippines, the sources admitted, lacks naval and air facilities to monitor piracy in its own waters, including the portion it is claiming in the South China Sea.

Besides triggering another wave of concern over regional stability, the piracy cases attributed by Hong Kong to China may further strain relations between them.

Hong Kong's governor, Christopher Patten, has proposed several constitutional revisions aimed at giving greater democracy to the crown colony it reverts to China in 1997.

Patten's proposals, which included giving voters the right to elect the majority of its legislators in 1995, have

irked China. Hong Kong's expose on China's alleged piracy is the latest in the series of irritants between the colony and the mainland.

Earlier, China's insistence to push through with its joint oil exploration of a portion of the South China Sea with the cooperation of the U.S.-based Crestone Energy Corp. has renewed tensions in the region.

Vietnam had claimed that the area China wants to explore is part of its continental shelf.

Philippine officials have expressed concern over the brewing feud.

Alternate Venue for Talks With MNLF Chosen

BK1805044894 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Malacanang [presidential office] is open to the possibility of holding the second round of formal talks between the government and the Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF] in the Philippines, if Indonesia could no longer host the peace negotiations. However, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Manuel Yan said the Philippine Government will wait for Jakarta's advice on the date when it could be held.

The talks were scheduled to be held yesterday, however the Indonesian Government asked the Philippine Government panel to wait for further advice as to when the formal talks could be resumed in Jakarta. The Indonesian Government called off the second round of talks without giving any official excuse. Observers say however, Jakarta is angry because a Philippine nongovernment organization is hosting a conference on reported human rights violations in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony annexed by Indonesia in 1976.

Breakaway Leader Urges Sison To Define Terms of Conflict

BK1705120794 Quezon City GMA-7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Felimon Lagman, chief of the Alex Boncayao Brigade, today challenged CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines- New People's Army-National Democratic Front] Chief Jose Maria Sison [Joma] to reveal the terms of the conflict if it does not want a peaceful breakup of their group.

In an interview with the Probe Team [GMA-7's weekly program], Lagman, alias Carlos Forte, said that the conditions of the conflict should be laid out.

[Begin Lagman recording] If he [Sison] truly rejects the peaceful disengagement, then we will be obliged to speak out. Let us define now the terms of engagement. If you [Sison] do not want a peaceful breakup, let us clarify the terms of engagement.

As what I have said, so that the military cannot sow bloody intrigues, let us clarify the target. If you want to target me, just say so publicly that it is Popoy [Lagman], and only Popoy. I will also declare openly that it is only him. So that if someone falls, it is the work of the military. [end recording]

In this regard, Lagman also said that the Ramos administration scored anew against Joma Sison through the government's release of Tiamzon.

[Begin Lagman recording] The Ramos regime really set up Joma for an intense wallop. The government will get the so-called high moral ground. If Joma continues his stubbornness, he will get an real intense wallop.

As we said, the movement has to pursue the peace discussion on substantial questions, not to argue on venue, and about whatever demands. The talks should be started. That is the solution. [end recording]

Communist Leader Invited To Join Peace Process

BK1805085994 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] President Fidel V. Ramos on Monday night invited communist party leader Wilma Austria-Tiamzon to help the government in its efforts to build lasting peace in the country by joining the peace process. The president personally conveyed this message to Tiamzon at the Philippine Heart Center in Quezon City, 11:30 PM.

Tiamzon who was captured by the Philippine National Police last 4 May was ordered transferred to the Heart Center by President Ramos last Thursday for humanitarian reasons. The Chief Executive went to the hospital to visit Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Angel Alcala who underwent a bypass operation last 10 May. He stayed at Secretary Alcala's room for 15 minutes.

While in the hospital, President Ramos decided to drop by Tiamzon's room to inform her that he had earlier instructed Justice Secretary Franklin Drilon to order the provincial prosecutor in Quezon province to file the appropriate motion with the Regional Trial Court [RTC] there for her release. The president told Tiamzon and I quote, I have already instructed Secretary Drilon to order the provincial prosecutor in Quezon province to take the necessary steps so that you can be freed. Please, join the peace process, unquote.

Tiamzon is reportedly suffering from hypertension and asthma. Tiamzon is facing two cases of kidnapping and serious illegal detention before the RTC Lucena City. President Ramos explained to her that it will be the court that will order her release, adding that the government will not object to it, provided that she will be turned over to a responsible citizens' group. The president said Tiamzon and her lawyers will have to meet with Ambassador Howard Dee, chairman of the government panel

for talks with the CPP-NPA-NDF [Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front] to choose the organization that will take care of her. He also informed Tiamzon that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines and the National Council of Churches in the Philippines have expressed their willingness to take her into their custody. The president also clarified that since she is being released on recognizance, she will post no bail. Mr. Ramos pointed out and I quote, you can still stay here in the hospital after you are released to an institution that you have already been their responsibility, unquote. [sentence as heard]

On the appeal of Mrs. Tiamzon to dismiss all the charges against her, Secretary Drilon said the release on recognizance is only the first act. The dismissal of the case will have to be discussed. The president assured Tiamzon of due process in the disposition of her cases. The president talked with CPP leader for about five minutes.

Ramos Launches Mindanao Infrastructure Projects

BK1805105694 Manila MANILA STANDARD in English 15 May 94 p 5

[Text] Mati, Davao Oriental—President Ramos began his development blitz of southeastern Mindanao yesterday, putting in place an P870 million [Philippine pesos] network of infrastructure facilities to help propel the country's participation in the East ASEAN Growth Area or EAGA.

The president also urged the people of Mindanao to unite and work hard to help achieve the government's objective of transforming the country into a newly industrialized nation by year 2000.

"Let us do our jobs and create a momentum so that the younger Filipinos will have a better future and more prosperous life," the president said during a multi-sectoral meeting to launch projects and services for the region.

The infrastructure facilities include the P300 million Davao-Digos Road; the P400 million Digos-General Santos Road; the P11.7 million water impounding system for Digos; a P115 million fund for the province for various development projects; and, a P44 million housing project for low-salaried government employees.

Ramos said the construction would be completed soonest, adding that funds had been made available so that builders could immediately start constructing the facilities.

Bidding for the projects will be finished in two months time, he said.

Ramos also released to the province P97 million representing its share of the internal revenue allotment for the first four months of the year.

He said the province's allotment for the rest of the year could be released on time by the budget department.

Aside from this, the president released P18.5 million representing funds for pet projects of lawmakers from the Davao provinces which are included in the budget law.

These projects include the construction of a tourism complex and the improvement of the police headquarters.

Other projects given funding commitments were:

- Concreting of the Mati Coastal Road;
- Rehabilitation of numerous farm-to-market roads; and,
- Completion of the unfinished Tandag-Bislig Road in Surigao Del Sur.

The housing project, undertaken by the National Housing Authority will benefit some 116 homeless families.

The president said his administration was determined to improve the economy of southeastern Mindanao, seen as a major player in implementing the EAGA with provinces of Brunei, Indonesia, and Malaysia.

The general thrust is to make the country, through the economic development of sub-regions, more competitive in the global trade, tourism, and investment market, he said.

'Most Lucrative' Prospects Cited in Mining

BK1805105194 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 16 May 94 p 2

[By Maricris C. Carlos]

[Text] Despite present problems dogging the industry, the prospect of mining investments in the country remains the most lucrative in the world, contends Mining and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Joel Muyco of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

Mr. Muyco cited as proof the country's overall per area mineral endowment, which places the Philippines second only to South Africa. The Philippines, he noted, has one of the highest mineral endowment ratio in the world.

The mineral endowment of a country serves as a measure of the extent of mineral distribution in a specific area. The ratio is computed by dividing the country's total land area with its confirmed mineral reserves.

According to DENR-MGB documents obtained by BUSINESS WORLD, in terms of gold deposits, South Africa has the richest reserves with a 15.80-ounce-per-square-kilometer mineral endowment ratio, while the Philippines is second with four ounces/square kilometer.

Papua New Guinea ranks third with 2.33 ounces/square kilometer.

Mr. Muyco told **BUSINESS WORLD**, if only these mineral reserves can be tapped, the mining industry will surely propel the Philippines to a newly industrialized status by the year 2000.

The reason the country has failed to truly industrialize is because government do not see the potential of the mining industry.

The mining sector is the key, he underscored. Unless government realizes this and put in place the needed programs and policies to relieve the pressure on the industry, the mining sector will remain an ailing industry.

At present, a bill reducing the excise tax on the industry is pending in Congress.

The existing 5 percent excise tax on the industry is considered as one of the biggest disincentives for investors.

The House of Representatives has already approved its version of the bill, which proposes to grant tax relief to the mining industry for an indefinite period or until the sector has recovered.

The Senate version of the bill, on the other hand, has just been recently approved on second reading.

According to the Senate bill, excise tax on metallic minerals should be slashed on the first three years from the present 5 percent to just 2 percent for gold and 1 percent for copper; on the fourth and fifth years, gold will be taxed at 2-1/2 percent and copper at 1-1/2. On the sixth year, the 5 percent excise tax is restored for all metallic minerals.

The country's mining operations have been experiencing massive losses because of depressed metal prices and increasing production costs.

As a result, the sector's share of the country's export earnings had plunged, from 1973's 24.55 percent share to a dismal 6.38 percent in 1992.

The country's top mining companies include Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. (Cebu), Maricalum Mining Corp. (Negros Occidental), Marcopper Mining Corp. (Marinduque), Philex Mining Corp. (Benguet), Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp. (Benguet), and Benguet Corp. (Dizon, Zambales).

Striking Workers in Malaysia To Be Investigated

BK1805090994 Quezon City Radio Filipinas in English 0230 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] A special team will leave for Malaysia today to look into the strike involving some 1,000 Filipino overseas contract workers [OCWs] at the Hyundai Construction Company in Sarawak, Malaysia. The team will be

headed by Deputy Executive Director Leuterio Cojuangco of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board.

A Filipino worker has been seriously injured during a protest by thousands of Filipino overseas contract workers in Sarawak, Malaysia. The Filipino OCW's were protesting against unfair labor practices of their employers.

Labor Undersecretary Jose Brillantes said Jimmy Lorenzo was injured when he was truncheoned by Malaysian guards trying to prevent the Filipinos from staging their protest action.

The Filipino workers are complaining against low wages, illegal salary deductions, and poor accommodations at the job site.

Thailand

Suphachai To Play Key Role in Cairns Discussions

BK1605070194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 May 94 p 34

[Text] The Cairns Group of 14 agricultural exporting nations will this week consider whether to continue as an informal group or to establish a secretariat.

The group was set up in 1986 to lobby for farm trade liberalisation in the Uruguay Round of world trade talks.

Cairns Group ministers agreed at the round's concluding meeting in Morocco last month that the group should remain in existence to monitor the implementation of the round's agreements on agriculture and to lobby for further liberalisation.

The discussions on the group's future structure will take place at the group's 14th ministerial meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay on May 19-20.

Thailand, which played a key role in setting up the group, still needs the group to push for more agricultural trade liberalisation under the new World Trade Organisation (WTO) scheduled to be established next year, Business Economics Department Director-General Kroekkrai Chiraphaet said on Friday.

He said the meeting would discuss its role and internal cooperation, especially on the task of monitoring whether signatories of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which would become members of the WTO, followed their commitment to open markets to farm products and reduce domestic and exports subsidies.

Thailand, as an active member of the Cairns Group, believed that even through the Uruguay Round included clauses on agricultural trade, more free trade was needed, he said.

Mr Kroekkrai said the group had to consider whether to opt for informal cooperation as existed or a formal office with a permanent secretariat.

The group also needed to talk about nominating a representative to chair the WTO's agriculture committee to be set up to supervise world farm trade.

In Marrakech last month, Australian Trade Minister Bob McMullan proposed that the group should try to have one of its members elected chairman of the agricultural committee. Thai Deputy Prime Minister Suphachai Phanitchaphak said he thought Thailand could play that role.

Dr Suphachai will head the Thai delegation at this week's meeting in Uruguay. Mr Kroekkrai will be the leader at official level.

The Thai delegation will visit Washington before going to Uruguay.

Dr Suphachai will meet United States Trade Representative Mickey Kantor to discuss Thailand's position on Washington's "Priority Watch List" of countries accused of failing to provide adequate protection for US intellectual property.

Dr Suphachai said even the US had recognised that Thailand had made progress in dealing with protection of intellectual property rights but Thailand wanted to explain to the US that the amendment of the Copyright Law depended on Parliament.

Both sides will discuss the agenda for their talks expected to be held in Washington next month. Thailand wants to talk about cooperation on economic issues, particularly joint investments in Thailand the third countries.

Further Reactions to U.S. DEA Probe on MP Thanong

Drug Suspect May Be Extradited

BK1705131994 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 12000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri informed reporters today that information provided by the United States regarding its case against MP Thanong Siriprichaphong to his ministry has been forwarded to the Interior Ministry. The relevant laws will have to be consulted on whether it is possible to extradite the MP for trial in the United States.

[Begin recording] [Prasong] There was a discussion this morning regarding the relevant laws. We will look into every angle.

[Unidentified reporter] What is the government's position? Will the MP be tried here or extradited to the United States?

[Prasong] If there is a law that allows an extradition, we will probably have to cooperate with the United States to

preserve our country's reputation. If the law does not allow this, then we will not be able to extradite him. The legal specialists will consult the law in case the United States requests an extradition.

[Reporter] In most previous cases, the United States was able to bring major drug traffickers to trial in its courts.

[Prasong] Most of them were arrested in the United States or in third countries.

[Reporter] What if there are other officials involved in this case?

[Prasong] [Words indistinct]. [end recording]

Opposition MPs Linked to Narcotics Trade

BK1805082794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 May 94 pp 1, 3

[Text] Ten active Opposition MPs and seven former MPs have been suspected by the United States of involvement in the narcotics trade and three have been denied entry visas to the US, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri told the Cabinet yesterday.

A Cabinet source said Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Prasong said the three MPs denied visas still sat in the House. He named one of them as Chat Phatthana Party MP for Chiang Rai Mongkhon Chongsuthamani.

Mr Mongkhon could not be reached yesterday for a statement.

The U.S. Embassy refused comment on the allegation against Mr Mongkhon.

Sqn Ldr Prasong's revelations came as the Cabinet discussed at length the drug allegations against Chat Thai MP for Nakhon Phanom Thanong Siriprichaphong.

An Interior Ministry source said the U.S. suspicions that Mr Mongkhon was involved in the drugs trade and the refusal to grant him an entry visa was also mentioned in a letter sent from the Foreign Ministry to the Interior Ministry yesterday.

The Foreign Ministry said in the letter that the U.S. had asked Thailand to arrest Mr Thanong and send him to that country for trial.

The ministry said the U.S. had also informed it it had denied an entry visa to Mr Mongkhon on suspicions he had been involved in the narcotics trade in the U.S. under similar circumstances to Mr Thanong.

Mr Mongkhon's visa request was denied in March.

The U.S. said some people had sought information about Mr Mongkhon, but its only reply had been "no comment", the Foreign Ministry stated in its letter.

The U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, when asked about this matter yesterday, declined comment.

Mr Mongkhon is known widely in his home province as "Sia Lek".

He is a former close aide to Narong Wongwan, former leader of the now-defunct Samakkhi Tham Party, who was also denied an entry visa by the United States for similar reasons.

An elder brother of Mr Mongkhon is now serving time in jail after being sentenced to death on drug charges in April 1992.

Mr Mongkhon, 48, was elected to represent Chiang Rai in 1983, 1986, 1988 and 1992. He served as secretary to the agriculture and cooperatives minister in 1990.

Sqn Ldr Prasong also told the Cabinet he was ready to testify before the House Committee on Parliamentary Affairs concerning this matter tomorrow.

The Cabinet yesterday considered legal points to decide whether Mr Thanong could be sent to the United States for trial.

Four laws were taken into consideration—the Extradition Act of 1929, the International Cooperation on Crime Act of 1992, the Thai-U.S. extradition treaty of 1990 and the Narcotics Suppression Act of 1979.

According to the U.S. indictment, Mr Thanong was involved in smuggling marijuana between 1977 and 1987.

This means Mr Thanong cannot be sent for trial in the US under the extradition treaty.

According to the Narcotics Suppression Act of 1979, crimes which took place abroad cannot be tried in Thailand. The Narcotics Suppression Act, which was amended in 1992, also cannot be enforced retroactively.

Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said after the Cabinet meeting it was still unclear whether Mr Thanong could be sent to the US.

He said the Juridical Council had been asked to make recommendations. The council will also study the possibility of having Mr Thanong undergo trial in Thailand.

The source said Interior Minister Chawalit Yongchaiyut told the Cabinet the evidence against Mr Thanong lacked weight if he was tried in Thailand.

He said consideration must be given to whether the U.S. indictment against Mr Thanong could be used as evidence.

Sqn Ldr Prasong also admitted the local evidence against the MP was insubstantial.

The Interior Ministry has decided it cannot arrest Mr Thanong and send him to the U.S. because the alleged crimes were not committed in Thailand.

The decision follows a meeting yesterday between Permanent Secretary Ari Wong-araya and his deputies, Chaiwat Hutacharoen and Chaloeem Promloet, said the source.

The source said Thailand had been asked to send Mr Thanong to the U.S. under an extradition treaty between the two countries signed in 1990.

An alternative was to send him to a third country which has an extradition treaty with the U.S. as Washington realizes the extradition of Mr Thanong is not possible under the Extradition Act of 1929. The Interior Ministry based its decision on this act.

The Foreign Ministry also informed the Interior Ministry in its letter that 10 Americans suspected of conspiracy with Mr Thanong had been sentenced to jail.

ROK Foreign Minister Begins Official Visit

Arrives, 'Optimistic' on DPRK Issue

SK1805001694 Seoul YONHAP in English 0001
GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Bangkok, May 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu remained optimistic Tuesday about North Korea's nuclear crisis despite news that Pyongyang already started unloading from its nuclear reactor, saying next North Korea-U.S. high-level dialogue could open early next month.

"If the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) judges that the situation is not serious, even if it was improper for North Korea to start the nuclear rod discharging process without IAEA presence, the next North Korea-U.S. high-level talks will open," Han told accompanying South Korean reporters after his mid-night arrival here.

"The high-level dialogue, in that case, is likely early June, although there is still possibility that it may open late this month," he said as he arrived at the second stop of his Southeast Asian tour.

North Korea had said it had to start removing the fuel rods from its 5mw reactor in Yongbyon by itself out of technical necessity.

Han referred to "the line" that separates whether this removal process has gone far enough for South Korea, the United States and the IAEA to declare an end to diplomatic negotiation and take the matter to the U.N. Security Council.

This line, he said, remains uncrossed as long as North Korea's activities so far at the reactor have not destroyed chances of IAEA's random selection and safekeeping of the fuel rods for measurements sometime later.

"The entire mood of the international community will change if North Korea has crossed this line," Han told reporters.

"I believe that even China will react negatively if such event occurs," said the foreign minister.

The IAEA will ultimately decide whether Pyongyang has stayed within this boundary, he said.

The agency's inspection entered Pyongyang on Tuesday via Beijing for a week-long check of North Korea's controversial nuclear program.

The team will come out of North Korea mid-way through the inspection if it finds North Korea in violation of safeguards on the nuclear reactor, he said.

"This entire issue of fuel rod discharging is entirely different in nature of the problem. So far, North Korea was charged with not doing something it is supposed to do. But the changing of the rods is about North Korea doing something it is not supposed to do. It's that much more serious," said Han.

Asked about North Korea-U.S. Working-level contact on the nuclear problem, he said Seoul and Washington will be able to get a sense of where the situation stands on the fuel rods while the IAEA is inside North Korea.

"If the IAEA report is positive, North Korea and the United States could make contacts although they don't necessarily have to be working-level meetings," he said.

Discusses Regional Security Issues

SK1805071994 Seoul YONHAP in English 0558
GMT 18 May 94

[Report by Yi Tong-min]

[Text] Bangkok, May 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea's direct involvement in Asia's first regional security dialogue is negligible, but the forum is nevertheless a matter of keen interest for Seoul officials including Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu.

The six members of Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore—sit down with their seven "dialogue partners," including South Korea and five other neighbors, for the first time in July to address their common security concerns.

There is no telling where this dialogue, named "ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)" will go, but it is certainly a symbol-laden beginning in a region where no such dialogue channel ever existed, mainly due to complex conflict of political interest, the vestige of the cold war and gap in historical and economic development history.

South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu, currently visiting Bangkok which hosts the first ARF July 25, called the forum more symbolic than substantive at this point.

But he sees this as an important impetus for sub-groupings, what he described as sub-ARF.

For instance, senior officials from Northeast Asian countries—South Korea, Japan, the United States, China and Russia—may decide to talk amongst themselves on their security issues before reporting to the ARF, Han said.

"By having something like the ARF, the region has a growing chance of engaging in multilateral regional security dialogue," he said.

Attesting to South Korea's interest in the forum, much of Han's meeting with Thai leaders here Wednesday focused on exchange of opinions on the future of the ARF, its relations with APEC.

The birth of ARF had more to do with competition with APEC Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) rather than consensus of needs.

ASEAN has long functioned as the leader organization in Asia until APEC came along in 1989 and took the spotlight in economic affairs of the region.

Unwilling to let go of the spotlight, ASEAN members braved a new initiative by tackling security agendas.

Last year, 18 nations including ASEAN members, their dialogue partners and five guests agreed in July to launch ARF.

South Korea had said that it welcomes such initiative and promised full participation in the discussion process.

Han had always said Northeast Asia needs security talks of its own, ideally in the form of mini-Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

"Our participation in the ARF is more symbolic than anything else—symbolic in that we are taking part in this region's initiative," explained Yu Pyong-u, director-general of Asian Affairs Bureau at the South Korean Foreign Ministry.

"But our true security interest lies with Northeast Asia," he said.

"The ARF would certainly be a good precedent, it would tell us how we can work in a separate channel in Northeast Asia, how we can complement it to ARF," said Yu.

Addresses Economic Security Issues

SK1805003794 Seoul YONHAP in English 0009
GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Bangkok, May 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu holds series of talks with Thai leaders Wednesday, discussing economic and security issues of the region and mustering support for Seoul's position on North Korean nuclear controversy and support on its bid for non-permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

Han, here on his second stop of Southeast Asian tour, meets Prime Minister Chuan Likphai and calls on King Adunyadet Phumiphon before centerpiece talks with Thai Foreign Minister Sunsiri Prasong in the evening.

On the economic front, Thai leaders are expected to ask active advancement by South Korean businesses and more investment. They are likely to point out the trade imbalance between the two countries.

Two-way trade totaled 2.3 billion U.S. dollars last year with Seoul taking 1.2 billion dollars in profits.

Han's aides said much of the meetings here will deal with regional rather than bilateral issues, especially with Thailand chairing this year's Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) post-ministerial conference.

Agendas include exchange of opinions on latest political developments, the future of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) which opens for the first time this year, and the future of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and its relationship with ASEAN, the aides said.

Han's key points will include briefings on North Korea's nuclear issue and getting Bangkok's support from Seoul's non-permanent membership in the U.N. security Council for 1996-1997.

Seeks Cooperation To Strengthen ASEAN

SK1805082594 Seoul YONHAP in English 0603 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Bangkok, May 18 (YONHAP)—South Korea sought Thailand's cooperation Wednesday in strengthening ties with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in its bid to get actively engaged with the region.

Visiting South Korean foreign minister, here on the second stop of his Southeast Asian tour, met with Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai for talks on regional issues covering ASEAN, its relations with Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the regional security dialogue that opened for the first time this year, Han's aides said.

Han expressed hopes of giving a boost to Seoul-Bangkok relations when Chuan visits South Korea next month, the aides said. He explained the latest developments on North Korea's nuclear problem with emphasis that the situation is not just a regional concern but an international one that threatens world stability.

The foreign minister sought Thai's active role in mediating South Korea's involvement with ASEAN as Bangkok plays chairmanship to this year's ASEAN post-ministerial conference July 26-28, the aides said.

Chuan explained Thailand's "constructive engagement policy" aimed at improving relations with the three Indochinese country—Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia—and its efforts to establish the "baht economy" that would also incorporate Myanmar [Burma].

South Korean officials said they wish to connect to these countries as well economically through Thailand.

The two leaders touched on Seoul-Bangkok economic relations with Chuan noting the trade imbalance in South Korea's favor.

Bilateral trade tallied at 2.3 billion U.S. dollars last year with South Korea pocketing 1.2 billion dollar surplus.

Chuan urged South Korean businesses to more actively enter Thai market and to make more investments as part of efforts to balance these trade figures, the aides said.

Problems in Relations With Cambodia Discussed

Chuan Reiterates Policy on Cambodia

BK1705144594 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said Thailand is entitled to make comments about Cambodia, and confirmed Thailand's policy of non-involvement. The prime minister said it is impossible to end the conflict in Cambodia through fighting, which would worsen the situation. He urges that diplomatic means be used to solve the problem. The prime minister also confirmed Thailand's policy of non-involvement.

[Begin Chuan recording] We have the right to make our opinion known, but we have no right to carry out actions in their country. We are entitled to make comments—whether we support or do not support any options. We the Thai people, as we already had an experience, we realize that it is difficult to solve national problems by making war. The problem would worsen and great damage would be done to the nation, making it difficult to restore law and order in a short time. We therefore believe that any problem should be settled through political and diplomatic means, which is more appropriate. [end recording]

Concerning Cambodia's repeated accusations of Thailand, the prime minister said it is the responsibility of the Foreign Ministry and the Thai Government to clarify things to it.

Impact of Fighting on Thailand

BK1805060194 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 May 94 p A5

[By Marisa Chimprapha]

[Text] Phnom Penh—The Thai Ambassador to Phnom Penh, Sakthip Krairoek, yesterday called on Cambodia and the world at large to recognize the suffering Thailand has had to face as a result of conflicts inside Cambodia.

Sakthip said wide criticism had been leveled at Thailand for its alleged support of the Khmer Rouge, but critics seemed to ignore the fact that Thai people had been badly affected.

The envoy was referring to criticism by Cambodian prime minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

The Cambodian government recently appealed for financial support to enable it to finally crush the Khmer Rouge, the Maoist group under whose reign of terror more than 1 million Cambodians died in the 1970s.

Thailand's responded to Cambodia's latest request for international support by saying it would be wrong for other countries to supply arms to either side in the long-running Cambodian civil war.

The U.S., Australia and France are considering Cambodia's request for assistance. However an informed source yesterday said no written request had been sent to the governments of the three countries.

Prince Ranariddh said Thailand's opposition to the request is tantamount to interference in Cambodia's internal affairs.

Sakthip said: "We are an immediate neighbor of Cambodia. The continued fighting in Cambodia has seriously affected Thai villagers along the border. Increasing the supply of weapons to Cambodian troops would certainly increase the suffering of Thais.

"Does the world community know about the deaths of innocent Thais and the damage caused to Thai property along the border when the Cambodians are fighting. Other countries only seem to be aware of the allegation that Thailand supports the Khmer Rouge," he said.

Sakthip said that Thailand has every right to express the opinion that the supply of more weapons to Phnom Penh would prolong the military confrontation.

High-ranking Thai officials, including the military, have voiced strong opposition to the request, saying the weapons would be sold across the Thai border by the ill-disciplined Cambodian government troops.

"Does Prince Ranariddh know about the Thai suffering. And if he knows, does he care?" said Sakthip.

Despite Thailand lodging numerous complaints with the Cambodian foreign ministry, Phnom Penh continued to ignore the plight of Thai villagers.

"That's why Thailand resisted the Cambodians' plea for arms," he said.

Suspicion Over Thai Role Examined

BK1805084594 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 May 94 p A6

[Article by Kawit Chongkitthawon entitled: "Still Suspicion Over Thai Role in Cambodia"]

[Text] Thailand is shooting itself in the foot again over Cambodia's appeal for arms assistance from the West to combat the Khmer Rouge.

Comments made by Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri and National Security Council Chief Gen Charan Kunlawanit were preposterous, not to mention the less than candor remarks by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai. Chuan, who can make a difference in Thai-Cambodian relations, instead has chosen to sit on the fence with increasing antipathy.

In essence, the Thai leaders were saying all the same thing—providing arms now for the Phnom Penh government would jeopardize the peace process in Cambodia. Thailand, they argued, would be affected by the ongoing fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border and the situation would worsen if more weapons are given to Phnom Penh. And these arms could be put up for sale along the Thai border. Finally, what Cambodia needs, they said, is humanitarian aid for its people.

What the Thais have not said are more interesting as in it are found expressions in the country's overall policy towards Cambodia. It is all boiled down to one thing—Thailand has not yet done enough to dispel suspicious among the Cambodian and international community over the country's alleged existing links with the Khmer Rouge.

Therefore, the question of foreign aid in the form of arms to Cambodia has been brought into the picture to pressure Thailand to do more.

France, Australia and the United States, the three major countries which used to strongly support Thailand's policy toward Cambodia, have now all turned against Thailand. They are also fed-up with Thailand's half-hearted attitude towards the Phnom Penh government, which is the only legitimate group recognized worldwide.

Worse still, ASEAN is also turning its face away from Thailand. During the ASEAN senior officials' meeting in Phatthaya last month, Bangkok failed to garner support from the regional grouping in issuing a statement on the situation in Cambodia which stated that the crux of the current problem there was the infightings between the government and Khmer Rouge forces. Even Thailand's friends in ASEAN did not buy that kind of argument.

If the Cambodian controversy drags on into the future, Thailand's role in the ASEAN Regional Forum will be marred. Bangkok can never speak for the region's security and emerging strategic order as it would be considered a pariah if the Khmer Rouge issue persists.

Cambodia alone cannot change Thai behavior and for that reason more powerful countries have joined Phnom Penh's efforts. Clearly, the Western countries want to pressure Thailand to help with the peace process, Cambodia's rehabilitation and reconstruction, which have been beset with huge problems resulting from over two-decades of incessant civil war.

Without Thailand's cooperation, they realize, Cambodia's future stability will forever be in jeopardy. And the Thais know it fully well and are aware of their power and

potential in Cambodia. As a bigger and richer country, Thailand has to be generous towards its neighbor. Bangkok cannot just adopt a tit-for-tat policy. But all blame must not fall on Thailand. Cambodia too has to share some of it.

From a historical perspective, Thai-Cambodian quarrels and conflicts, have more often than not stemmed from leadership idiosyncrasies among leaders in both countries.

On the Cambodian side, there is the mercurial King Norodom Sihanouk, who has spent literally all his life wading off Thailand, to ensure his country's neutrality and independence. He has outlasted and outmaneuvered many Thai leaders. In fact, King Sihanouk is the only world leader who knows Thailand (besides singing Thai songs) so well, including ways to draw Thai blood. And now, he is passing this art of survival through his clan, who are running the country.

As far as Thailand is concerned, Thai leaders just hate Cambodia. Behind the Thai smile lies a long sharp dagger. In the early Bangkok period, if the same conditions had prevailed as today, Thai troops would have stormed Cambodia several times over—not to mention those lunatic Thai leaders in the 50's and 60's and what they might have done.

However, the present Thai leaders are not much better than their predecessors. They have shown ignorance and arrogance, the deep-rooted trait that does not support Thailand's growing clout in the regional economic and political arenas. They continue to view Cambodia through the same old prism, which had already caused numerous misunderstandings and tensions between the two countries for the past centuries.

How Thailand is dealing with—Cambodia today is not dissimilar with the policy practiced in the 1950's-60's. Phnom Penh's outrageous reactions were equally predictable. Obviously, both sides have not learnt from their common history.

Unfortunately, even though there is a Cambodian ambassador-designate, Roland Eng, in Bangkok, he has yet to reconfirm and officially take up his job. Relations could improve if their diplomats on both sides met. Without proper consultation through diplomatic channels, the two countries could repeat the bitter past when they suspended bilateral relations twice under Sihanouk's reign.

Finally, the Khmer Rouge issue happens to be Thailand's current albatross in the long annals of Thai-Cambodian relations. The Thai leaders know that even without the Khmer Rouge problem, other hidden issues will quickly rear their ugly heads. In the end, there would always be the trouble-ridden Thai-Cambodian border with poor demarcations to quarrel about.

Absurd as it may sound, some of the Thai leaders still prefer to associate with the predictable and disciplined

Khmer Rouge and are willing to sink with them, thinking that sooner or later they can get away with it as the world will have only Cambodia to be concerned about.

This is sheer folly that will bode ill for Thai-Cambodia ties.

Cambodian Charges of Aiding KR Rebutted

BK1805042794 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 May 94 p 6

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri yesterday reaffirmed Thailand's policy of non-intervention in Cambodia's internal affairs, saying Thailand had no right to tell anyone what to do.

"Thailand never interferes in the internal affairs of another country," he said.

"The Cambodian request for arms assistance is a matter concerning only the donors and the recipients. Thailand cannot interfere or get involved."

Cambodian Co-Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh said on Monday that Bangkok's opposition to overseas military aid for his government was hypocritical and amounted to unacceptable interference.

Cambodian leaders have repeatedly accused Thailand of aiding the Khmer Rouge [KR] Through trade and by providing a safe haven on its soil. Thai authorities however, have denied helping the guerrillas.

"When they (government troops) lose (on the battlefield), they always find a scapegoat or someone to blame," the Foreign Minister said in response to the Cambodian government allegations against Thailand.

Foreign Ministry Director-General of East Asian Affairs Department, Don Pramutwinai, pointed out that Thailand did not object to the foreign supply of arms to the Phnom Penh government, as it had only expressed its opinion and goodwill to see lasting peace in Cambodia.

"We just expressed our feelings as a neighboring country which has always been affected by the fighting in Cambodia. The provision of arms by outsiders would prolong the conflict and would absolutely not bring peace to that country," Mr Don said.

Prince Ranariddh said Foreign Minister Norodom Sirivut had met the ambassadors of the United States, France, Britain and other countries to officially ask for military assistance to fight the Khmer Rouge.

Defense Minister Wichit Sukmak commented that arms assistance was "the least appropriate thing" for the Paris Peace agreement signatories to conduct.

His deputy minister Sombat Rotphothong said whoever wanted to assist Cambodia should consider whether that assistance would bring about peace in the country.

Maj-Gen Sombat noted that the solution to Cambodian problems would only be reached through political means, not military support, "otherwise the Cambodian people would be the ones who suffer most."

Gen Wichit reiterated Thailand's firm stand to see national reconciliation in Cambodia and the hope that the conflict would be settled through peaceful means.

"If the fighting continues, the repercussions on Thailand could not be avoided for we share a common border. We have no involvement but are burdened with such negative results," he said.

Asked if foreign military assistance would violate the 1991 peace agreement, Gen Wichit said such was the case because the accord aimed at reducing and controlling arms in Cambodia.

"If there is still military support to one particular faction, the fighting will be prolonged and never end," Gen Wichit said.

Meanwhile, Cambodian ambassador-designate to Bangkok Roland Eng was yesterday invited by the Foreign Ministry to discuss the invitation extended to Cambodia to attend the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) scheduled for Bangkok in July.

Director-General Don quoted Mr Eng as expressing interest in participating in the meeting. However, Cambodia this year could not immediately join as they first need to have access to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation of the Southeast Asian nations and hold observer status.

Mr Eng was also quoted as saying that he would take up his position in Bangkok soon.

He told reporters after a 30-minute discussion with Mr Don that he believed Thailand would want to see round-table peace talks held as soon as possible and the Cambodian government was trying its best to organize such a meeting.

Debate on Government Aid to Cambodia Reported

Prasong Opposes Arms Supplies

BK1705014694 Bangkok Thai Color Television Channel 9 in Thai 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] The foreign minister says that, so long as there are weapons and fighting in Cambodia, it will be impossible to achieve peace there. Commenting about King Sihanouk's request for arms assistance from western countries and Australia to fight the Khmer Rouge, Foreign Minister Squadron Leader Prasong Sunsiri says Thailand will have nothing to do with that; it involves only the countries giving and receiving. However, he said, there will be no solution to the fighting if one resorts to the military option.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] Has there been any request for sympathy from Australia?

[Prasong] Well, it is impossible for us to say: You should not give them the weapons. That would be an interference on our part. But we can tell them that we will have nothing to do with that; it's your business whether or not you are going to give them the weapons. Anyway, we believe that a settlement of the Cambodian problem should be achieved through political not military means. [end recording]

Prasong Reiterates Cautious Stance

BK1705055494 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said Thailand needs to be more cautious about looking after the Thai border if some countries decide to arm Cambodian government forces against the Khmer Rouge.

Speaking after his return from an official visit to the United Kingdom yesterday, Foreign Minister Prasong called for the solving of the Cambodian problem through negotiations instead of military means.

He said the military aid to Cambodia might escalate fighting along the Thai-Cambodian border thus affecting Thai villagers living in the area. The foreign minister said as long as fighting continues, genuine and lasting peace cannot be achieved in Cambodia.

He said the Cambodian issue was also raised for discussion with British leaders so that they clearly understood Thailand's stand on the issue.

He said Thailand has been providing assistance to Cambodia to help in the reconstruction of the country. The assistance is in the forms of military uniforms, road improvement, construction of schools and hospitals, and technical aid. The assistance is not aimed at encouraging fighting inside that country. This is because Thailand wishes to see peace in Cambodia.

Military Solution Opposed

BK1805103094 Bangkok THAI RAT in Thai 18 May 94 p 3

[Editorial: "Meeting on Paris Agreement"]

[Text] The world has tried hard to return peace to Cambodia, end the genocide among the Cambodian people themselves, and persuade them to help each other to restore their country. It appears, however, that the world is failing, as evidenced by the continued fighting between the Cambodian Government and the Khmer Rouge. Moreover, the trend will be towards prolonged fighting if foreign arms are poured into the country.

Thailand's view, which opposes arms being supplied from a dozen countries for the Cambodian Government to fight the Khmer Rouge, may carry little weight in light

of repeated remarks by Cambodian Government officials accusing Thailand of aiding the Khmer Rouge. Though Thailand has not supported the Khmer Rouge as accused, if those countries believe those accusations they could provide funds and arms to the Cambodian Government as requested.

We wish to tell the world, especially the countries involved in the Paris agreement, that arms or financial support for any Cambodian side will make peace in Cambodia, which really is not that far away, completely impossible to achieve. The civil war will continue with more Cambodians becoming victims.

We sympathize with King Sihanouk being discouraged by disunity among the Cambodian people, which is causing peace to be unattainable. Couple this unity problem with foreign arms support—so the Cambodians can kill each other, so that one faction will gain outright victory—will fuel incessant fighting in Cambodia and endanger the region and the world.

We feel that if the superpowers really want peace to return to Cambodia, they should avoid arms support for any Cambodian faction. They should convene another meeting of the countries involved in the Paris agreement to find a solution to the civil war and forge national reconciliation for the Cambodian people and eventually for their survival.

We wish to warn the Cambodian Government that to completely subjugate the rival faction by war requires an overwhelming superiority. In the interest of the future of the Cambodian nation, national reconciliation must not be forged by continued violence.

Defense Minister Opposes Arms Supplies

BK1705083294 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Before attending today's Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister General Wichit Sukmak talked to newsmen about the Cambodian first prime minister's accusation that the Thai army is supporting the Khmer Rouge. He said he had no knowledge about the charge, and that it may only be a remark made to a news agency.

Regarding Cambodia seeking arms aid from other countries to improve the capability of its armed forces, Thailand must consider this issue very carefully.

The defense minister said the worst thing United Nations member countries could do is to provide any Cambodian side with support that could worsen the conflict and fighting among the factions. Also, providing arms to the Cambodian Government is against the Paris peace accord that was signed, and which was jointly sponsored by France, the United States, and Indonesia. The agreement aimed to reduce the use of arms that had prolonged the fighting and delayed the establishment of peace.

The Thai Government wants to see national reconciliation work in Cambodia. Therefore, the Cambodian people should settle their conflict peacefully. The fighting in Cambodia has adversely affected the Thai people living in the areas bordering Cambodia for more than 13 or 14 years. Their property have been robbed and they have to live with the insecurity, concluded the Thai defense minister.

Paper Opposes Military Aid

BK1705082794 Bangkok SIAM POST in Thai 17 May 94 p 4

[Editorial: "Sihanouk Deserts Cambodia"]

[Text] King Norodom Sihanouk declared in Phnom Penh last Thursday that he felt hopeless about peace in his country and asserted that national reconciliation is dead. He said he was leaving for Beijing.

In his news conference, Sihanouk said the Khmer Rouge rejection of his peace initiatives led him to feel hopeless and to cancel the roundtable meeting on national reconciliation.

Late last month, King Sihanouk invited the Cambodian Government and Khmer Rouge leaders to a roundtable meeting at his palace to discuss national reconciliation. However, his invitation was rejected outright by Khieu Samphan, who claimed that there was no guarantee for his safety.

Sihanouk issued another invitation to the two Cambodian factions to attend a meeting in Pyongyang. He also let out his frustration by saying that he would ask for foreign troops to solve the problem in his country.

Last week, the Australian Foreign Ministry confirmed that it received a request for military assistance from Cambodian Foreign Minister Norodom Sirivut. The minister had made this request to the Australian, U.S., French, and ASEAN embassies in Phnom Penh.

Australia and certain countries are now considering arms or military training for Cambodia and consulting certain countries, particularly Thailand, on this issue. King Sihanouk, however, denies any knowledge of the matter.

A decision by any Western country or its allies to provide assistance to Cambodia, be it in the form of arms or military training, is tantamount to interference in the internal affairs of that country.

It can be said that by completely distancing himself from peace efforts in Cambodia, King Sihanouk has given the leaders of the two Cambodian factions the opportunity to seek foreign assistance to continue a war of genocide.

Editorial Urges Cambodia To Rebuild Military

*BK1805084294 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 May 94 p A6*

[Editorial: "Cambodians Must Rebuild Their Disgraced Armed Forces"]

[Text] One of the defining images of U.S. involvement in the Vietnam war is a much celebrated picture of napalm-spattered girl, her mouth stretched wide in pain, fleeing down a paddy-lined road as plumes of smoke rise from her burning village in the background.

Another photo of the same era, while less known, serves a similar function of encapsulating Washington's role in Cambodia. It shows a young boy, not much older than the Vietnamese girl, swamped by his U.S.-supplied battle dress and M-16 getting ready to go to war.

Twenty years later, the photo still serves as a graphic reminder of the folly of providing massive military aid to the corruption-riddled regime of Lon Nol. In both Cambodia and Vietnam, foreign military assistance extended the suffering of the local populations.

Despite Phnom Penh's objections and cries of interference, Thai military leaders and politicians are right to criticize an appeal by Cambodia's leaders for international donations of arms.

The Royal Cambodian Army is poorly-equipped but it is not for lack of arms that it has suffered a string of stunning defeats at the hands of the better-armed Khmer Rouge over the last few months. The biggest problem, as Bangkok has noted, is corruption and poor leadership among its generals.

Sihanouk is well aware of the dangers of greed and incompetence among his officer corps, whom last week he called the "world's masters of corruption". After their defeats at the hands of the Khmer Rouge in Pailin and Anlung Veng, government soldiers complained their officers had been more interested in pillaging the area than taking proper precautions to defend the bases.

According to some reports, government officers requisitioned military trucks to transport their looted spoils back to Phnom Penh while wounded soldiers were left to walk out.

Irregularly paid, and poorly looked after, Cambodia's soldiers have little incentive to risk their lives.

Last week, Australia said it along with the United States and France were seriously considering the possibility of sending weapons to Cambodia.

Thailand has criticized the idea repeatedly, saying a renewed influx of arms would result in a prolonging of the conflict. Bangkok officials say they still hope to see a political settlement and national reconciliation but as Sihanouk, for long the leading proponent of cutting a deal with the Khmer Rouge, lamented last week, such a hope is looking increasingly vain.

At the height of its ugly diplomatic row with Phnom Penh over alleged assistance to the Khmer Rouge, Foreign Minister Prasong Sunsiri said Thailand was washing its hands of the Cambodia affair and he announced Thailand would play no part in hosting peace talks.

But the Cambodian problem won't go away. Shells continue to stray over the border and the unending upheaval across the border hurts Thai business interests and is a source of a wide range of criminal activity from banditry to gunrunning.

What would serve Thailand better would be to join an international effort to revamp the Cambodian armed forces.

An effectively trained and led army could do much to restore peace throughout much of Cambodia. A well-disciplined army would also eliminate one of the last sources of support for the Khmer Rouge—the widespread resentment at official corruption and extortion by government soldiers.

Further more, aiding the government army may be the only way to dispel the widely-held impression that the Thai military continues to support the guerrilla group.

In the end, however, whatever military training the international community can offer, it will do little good unless the factionalized government in Phnom Penh also extends its support. The Cambodians must start the process of rebuilding their disgraced army and then perhaps the world will be in a position to help.

Army Suspends Broadcasting on All-News Radio

Broadcast Criticizes Army

*BK1705011894 Hong Kong AFP in English 1411
GMT 16 May 94*

[Text] Bangkok, May 16 (AFP)—A local all-news FM radio station was off the air Monday in unexplained circumstances.

Reliable sources said transmissions were halted following harsh criticism of the military during a talk show on THE NATION radio at the weekend. Reached by telephone, the armed forces spokesman, Lieutenant General Anuson Kritsanaserani, categorically denied the military had ordered the station to shut down.

Calls to the radio station went unanswered Monday, and staff members at The Nation daily, which provides programming to the station, said they did not want to discuss the issue. One employee described the situation as "sensitive." Another station said management of THE NATION radio had indicated the station was shut for three days for "maintenance."

Reliable sources said management of the radio station would meet Monday evening with officials of the Army's Territorial Defense department, which has the rights to the frequency on which the station broadcasts.

To Resume Broadcasts 18 May

*BK1805041694 Bangkok THE NATION in English
18 May 94 p A2*

[Text] THE NATION's FM-96 radio news station will resume broadcasting this morning after being suspended for three days by the army over a program considered to be critical of the armed forces. The Territorial Defense Department, which owns the station, blacked out the 24-hour broadcast on Sunday.

Supreme Command Spokesman Anuson Kritsanaserani said yesterday comments by well-known social critic Sulak Siwarak, who was a guest on THE NATION News Talk program last Saturday, were "biased" against the military.

"The army chief has laid down a policy that no army-owned radio stations must be allowed to air programs critical of the military," he said. FM-96 is leased to NPG Broadcasting Network an affiliate of THE NATION Publishing Group.

Suphap Klikachai, managing director of NPG Broadcasting, said the department had agreed to broadcasts resuming this morning.

Border Bridge Agreement Signed With Burma

*BK1705082194 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in
English 17 May 94 p 3*

[Text] Thailand and Burma have signed an agreement to build a bridge across the Moei River linking the border towns of Mae Sot and Myawadi.

Construction is expected to begin in July, said Phalang Tham Party MP Udon Tantisunthon yesterday.

The agreement to build the bridge was signed on May 13 by Highways Department Director Sanan Sirungrot and Burmese Bridge Construction Department chief U Shwe Tun Maung.

The bridge will be 420 meters long and 13 meters wide. The construction cost is put at 79.2 million baht, said Mr. Udon.

Pro-Democracy Activist on Hunger Strike Interviewed

*OW1605114094 Tokyo KYODO in English 1058
GMT 16 May 94*

[Text] Bangkok, May 16 KYODO—A Thai political activist vowed Monday [16 May] to go on a hunger strike

to pressure the government to make further steps toward enacting true democracy in Thailand.

Chalat Worachat [spelling of name as received], 51, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE he was determined to start a hunger strike on May 25 and would not stop until the government starts the process of writing a new constitution stipulating direct elections for provincial governors and members of municipal councils, or resign or dissolve the House of Representatives.

Chalat went on a hunger strike two years ago which triggered a mass protest that led to a bloody political crackdown in May 1992. The then military-dominated government was toppled after dozens of people were killed or went missing during the Army's suppression.

"I'll go on the fast to continue the cause of my struggle two years ago," Chalot said. He fasted for 47 days in 1992 and stopped on May 24 after the resignation of the then Premier Gen. Suchinda Kraprayun.

Chalat, serving his second term as an elected member of Parliament, has gone on four hunger strikes during the past 10 years and has been on a lone demonstration in front of Parliament since April 8.

Chalat made public his decision to go on a hunger strike last week, prompting a number of politicians and political activists to try to dissuade him.

A group of leading politicians and academics, led by Chamlong Simuang and two rectors of leading universities, met Monday and issued a resolution calling on Chalot to postpone his hunger strike. They said the four-point demands he is making need more time and that his hunger strike might trigger another political upheaval in the country.

Prime Minister Chuan Likhai warned Sunday against unrealistic demands when he laid a wreath in remembrance of victims of the May 1992 uprising. He called on Thais to respect the principles of democracy and avoid repetition of the 1992 unrest.

The present five-party coalition government, derived from an election after the upheaval, has been widely criticized by pro-democracy forces of inadequacy in moving the country forward on a democratic path. The government's attempt to amend the constitution was defeated in Parliament in March.

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